

15 killed in Portuguese fire

AGUEDA, Portugal (AP) — A forest fire killed 15 people and injured more than 50 others Saturday as it swept out of control past villages in the hills of central Portugal, officials said. Soldiers were sent to reinforce more than 350 firefighters battling the blaze along a 20-kilometre front in the forested hill district around this town, 260 kilometres north of the capital, Lisbon. Two air force helicopters stood by to evacuate residents from threatened villages if firemen were not able to divert the flames, officials said. Agueda fire service officer Antonio Faria Gomes told the Associated Press that 13 of the dead were firefighters. He said at least one civilian was missing. Earlier reports that seven firefighters and seven civilians had been killed were mistaken, according to the official. Mr. Faria said more than 49 other firefighters were hospitalised.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Iraq says 2 Iranian jets downed

BAGHDAD(R) — Two Iranian F-5 warplanes were shot down by an Iraqi jet in a dogfight over the northern sector of the Gulf warfront on Saturday, a military spokesman said. He said the Iranian jets crossed the border to raid residential areas of Mawat and Kariza in Sulaimaniyah province, 10 kilometres from the frontier. "An Iraqi fighter plane spotted the enemy planes and shot them both down at 5:45 a.m. (01:45 GMT)," the spokesman said. This was the second report of Gulf war air action in a week that has seen little ground fighting. Iraq said on Tuesday that its forces destroyed two Iranian F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers over the southern warfront. One was said to have been downed by anti-aircraft fire and the other exploded after a dogfight with Iraqi jets.

Big offensive brewing in the Iran-Iraq war, page 2

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Fahd appeals to Lebanese factions

JEDDAH (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia appealed to feuding Lebanese factions on Saturday to put down their arms and restore peace to their country, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. "It is not the time to end the Lebanese tragedy... stop the bloodshed... it is not the time to allow peace to embrace your homes and prosperity to return to your homeland," he said. He said Saudi Arabia had spared no efforts to help end the civil war and restore peace to Lebanon.

Regent sends good wishes to Aquino

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, sent a cable of good wishes on Saturday to President Corason Aquino of the Philippines on the occasion of the Philippines' Independence Day. The Regent wished President Aquino continuing good health and happiness and the people of the Philippines further progress and prosperity.

Iraqi Kurds to elect parliament

BAGHDAD (R) — Three million Kurds in northern Iraq will elect a new two-year parliament for their region in August, Baghdad Radio reported Saturday. It said a decree signed by President Saddam Hussein set Aug. 13 for the election of the consultative council of the autonomous region of Kurdistan. The region was created by the Baghdad government in 1977 after nearly two decades of Kurdish insurgency.

Khamenei gets Gorbachev message

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei on Saturday received a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) reported. IRNA, monitored here, said the message was delivered by Soviet Charge d'Affaires in Tehran Nikolai Kapayshin. Mr. Khamenei's senior aide Mustafa Mir-Salim. The contents of the message were not disclosed.

Soviets said to be seeking talks with Italy

ROME (R) — The Soviet Union has proposed a bilateral meeting with Italy to discuss Mediterranean problems in addition to a planned visit here by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the Italian daily La Stampa reported Saturday. It quoted Soviet Ambassador Nikolai Lunikov as saying the Soviet Union largely agreed with Italian policy in the Mediterranean and wanted to hold consultations between the two governments. According to the influential, Turin-based newspaper, the Italian government has suggested that a planned visit to Italy by Mr. Gorbachev should take place next October and Moscow would like the Mediterranean consultations before then.

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Jordan to establish new university of science and technology

Agreement in principle also reached on private university, minister announces

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Higher Education (CHE) has decided to establish a university for science and technology at the permanent site of Yarmouk University and has agreed in principle to open the way for the establishment of a private university in the Kingdom, Minister of Higher Education Nasereddin Al Assad announced here Saturday.

Making the announcement at a press conference here Dr. Assad said that the new university at Yarmouk will be named the Jordan University of Science and Technology.

It will open its doors for students at the start of the coming academic year 1986/87. This university will accept up to 12,000 students and will teach the following specialisations: medicine, medical sciences, engineering, agriculture and veterinary medicine, Dr. Assad said.

The CHE, he said, has empowered the minister of higher education to set up a committee to study the Jordanian labour market's needs of various specialisations with a view to providing needed training and education from now and until the year 2000.

On the proposal for a private university, Dr. Assad said that the ministry will pursue discussion on conditions and legislation that would govern it and ensure its operations.

He announced that a new civil wing will be added to Yarmouk University near Karak which at present offer courses in military sciences.

The new annex will be separate from the main buildings but final decision on its location will be decided on at the CHE's next meeting when the future of the Karak school of agriculture and the community college will be discussed as well, Dr. Assad added.

He said that the CHE has decided to establish a teachers college at the site of the sports education college within Al Hussein Youth City's compound. This college will be part of the University of Jordan and will serve as an umbrella for the colleges of sports and education and would be made to accommodate up to 800 students annually, the minister added.

According to Dr. Assad this college will turn out teachers of various specialisations to meet the needs of schools in the country. The CHE, he said, has entrusted the University of Jordan to submit a working paper on this subject to be worked out in cooperation with the ministries of education and higher education.

Dr. Assad said that community college graduates will be accepted by Jordanian universities under certain conditions provided that their tajwili examination marks are not less than 75 per cent and subject to availability of seats at the universities in question.

Dr. Assad announced that the CHE has made two lists of American universities and colleges prior to recommending Jordanian ministries and other organisations to dispatch their students to some of them on scholarships. The lists include 1,380 colleges out of 4,500 that exist in the United States.

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King hopes for early Shultz visit

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein said in an interview broadcast on Saturday he hoped U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz would soon visit the Middle East to discuss efforts for peace in the Middle East.

"I would hope the visit would take place and that it would, hopefully, be at a time when it's possible for the secretary as well to visit if we are talking about the possibilities of the United States contribution towards establishment of a just and durable peace in the area and to all the parties to the conflict," King Hussein said.

Asked when he hoped Mr. Shultz could visit the Middle East, he replied, "I can't tell at this point in time, but soon."

The King's comments were made in an interview taped on Tuesday with U.S. television. Mr. Shultz has not announced any plans for a trip to the Middle

East and U.S. officials say they believe chances for a regional peace agreement are poor at this time.

King Hussein said efforts for Middle East peace had received a setback recently but should be continued.

The King had meetings earlier this week with President Ronald Reagan and Mr. Shultz in Washington and described the talks as frank and candid. He did not give any details.

He and Her Majesty Queen Noor were in the United States for school graduations of their Royal Highnesses Princess Zein and Princess Aisha and for medical checkups at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. The King and Queen were scheduled to leave the U.S. Saturday.

The King said he was trying to bring the governments of Syria and Iraq together and hoped this might bring an end to the war between Iran and Iraq.

He said better relations between Syria and Iraq "will help contribute toward a speedy end to that war."

"So many within our world have watched it (the war) progress year-in and year-out and I am hopeful that a combined effort by all will enable us to see an end to a war that has cost so much in lives and property, and in terms of anxiety and jeopardy to the entire area and maybe the world."

The King said he had been assured by President Hafiz Al Assad Syria was not involved in guerrilla actions such as the bombing of a Berlin club which killed two U.S. soldiers and an attempt to put a bomb on an El Al jet in London.

He said he regretted the U.S. bombings of Libya but also regretted Libyan actions that might have led to the attack.

King Hussein said he had reached an agreement with Moscow for additional weapons to complete the systems Jordan had ac-

quired from the Soviet Union previously. He said any other weapons would come from Europe because of opposition in the U.S. Congress to supplying American arms to Jordan.

He said the close vote in the Senate last week to approve the sale of U.S. weapons to Saudi Arabia might indicate an anti-Arab feeling in Congress.

"It is tragic, but one could suggest that a situation has arisen recently where all Arabs are stereotyped as terrorists because of the actions of a few here and there, mainly actions that are really alien to everything we believe in, everything we stand for," he said.

Meanwhile, the French news agency, AFP, quoted political sources in Amman as saying they were convinced that a meeting between the foreign ministers of Iraq and Syria will take place

(Continued on page 3)



King, Queen given clean bill of health

CLEVELAND (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor checked out of the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, on Saturday after medical check-ups and doctors at the clinic said they were in excellent physical condition.

The King and Queen, who entered the clinic at the end of a private visit to the United States earlier this week, were expected to leave the U.S. later Saturday.

Doctors at the clinic, which pioneered heart bypass surgery in the United States, gave the Royal family a clean bill of health and rated them in excellent condition, a clinic official said.

King Hussein, who first visited the clinic in February, 1984, for treatment of a minor gastrointestinal problem, has been in the United States to attend graduation ceremonies of his twin daughters and to hold talks with Reagan administration officials.

On his way home, the King was expected to make a stopover in London for talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He met French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac on his way to the U.S. earlier this month.

In the U.S. the King and Queen attended the graduation ceremonies of their Royal Highnesses Princess Zein and Princess Aisha. On June 9, the King held talks at the White House with President Ronald Reagan and later met with Vice-President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger. An American official told reporters after the King's meeting with Mr. Reagan that the U.S. administration would study suggestions by the King on means to revive efforts for peace in the Middle East.

In Washington, the Queen was the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Mrs. Bush and inaugurated an exhibition of Jordanian handicrafts. The exhibition was organised by the Queen Noor Foundation.

Jordan, Syria to resume talks on Yarmouk River

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Syria are to resume talks on utilising water from the Yarmouk River, according to a report carried by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, on Saturday.

Petra said the cabinet has named Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) President Munther Hadadin to head the Kingdom's side to a joint Jordanian-Syrian committee on utilising Yarmouk water.

The cabinet decision is in line with an agreement signed between the governments of Jordan and Syria in 1973 which stipulates that a joint committee regulate the use of Yarmouk water by Jordan and Syria by implementing a project to build a dam at Al Maquran on the Jordanian-Syrian border to store water from the river for use by both countries.

The joint committee, which was originally formed with the signing of the 1973 agreement, was suspended in 1980.

Petra said the cabinet decision to revive the committee and resume talks on the issue with Syria aims at harnessing Yarmouk water to serve the interests of both countries.

In another decision reported on Saturday, the cabinet allocated JD 19,000 for carrying out a study and prepare designs and tender documents for a project to set up a stadium east of Amman.

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Audit Bureau seeks action against int'l couriers

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The head of the Audit Bureau has recommended to the Ministry of Communications that the operating licences of international couriers operating from Amman be revoked for violating licensing terms.

Dr. Hashem Dabbas, president of the bureau, said the couriers were dealing with letters and packages in violation of government regulations which confine such services strictly to the Ministry of Communications. "I have sent a memo to the minister of communications to take action against those companies which were proved to have violated the Postal Services Law," Dr. Dabbas told the Jordan Times on Saturday.

Violations of such regulations, Dr. Dabbas said, mean abuse of public funds eventually leading to a drop in revenues of the government and should therefore be considered as contravening the Postal Services Law of 1975.

Ministry of Communications officials who were contacted by the Jordan Times withheld comment, saying they have not yet been officially notified of the matter.

DHL, Skypak and Aramex are three major international couriers maintaining offices and operating from Jordan, handling letters and packages on a quick delivery basis. Officials of the three firms, contacted by the Jordan Times on Saturday, said they were not aware of the "charges" levelled against them. But, they said, they have not violated any conditions attached to their operating licences and said they abide by the Ministry of Communications' rules, particularly those covering prohibited items and goods subject to customs duties.

Fadi Ghandour, director of the Amman Office of Aramex, said the couriers' operations did not contravene regulations laid down by the Ministry of Communications. The couriers charge very high prices when compared to postal charges and provide fast "desk-to-desk" delivery of items entrusted to them. Mr. Ghandour said such a service is not provided by the ministry, he pointed out.

He said the international courier service was indispensable to a large sector of the society which needs fast pick-ups and deliveries to other countries.

Several other countries have tried to close down international courier operations but had to retract their moves, Mr. Ghandour said.

Pro-Syrian militia storms Bekaa town

BEIRUT (AP) — Pro-Syrian militiamen stormed most of east Lebanon's town of Mashgara on Saturday in fierce house-to-house battles with Iranian-backed Shiite zealots. Police said more than 20 people were killed and 107 injured in the three-day confrontation.

Fighters of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP) seized Mashgara's main square and punched 100 metres beyond it, cornering the dihard garrison of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah gunmen in the town's western sector, a local reporter said.

SSNP militiamen inched their way to the new positions in the Bekaa Valley town behind a fierce barrage from multi-barrelled rocket launchers and mortars, the reporter said in a telephone dispatch.

Rescue teams evacuated bodies of the 20 victims and 77 injured persons from the one-kilometre stretch of Mashgara controlled by SSNP militiamen after their major assault, according to the reporter who refused to be named.

In an apparent effort to ease the advance, hard-pressed Hizbollah militia gunners shelled SSNP positions in the nearby village of Ait-anit. The SSNP struck back by ringing and shelling the Bekaa towns of Sohmar and Yohmor, the reporter added.

The arena of Lebanon's latest mini-war is roughly 40 kilometres southeast of Beirut. Efforts to arrange a ceasefire by Lebanese uninvolved political parties have not been successful.

A spokesman for the police department in Beirut said about 30 injured persons remained lying in the dusty alleys of Mashgara's western sector where Hizbollah fighters are trapped.

Syrian forces stationed in the Bekaa Valley and north Lebanon under an Arab League peacemaking mandate since 1976 made no move to check the Mashgara battles, the reporter said.

Despite the failure of efforts to arrange a truce in the Bekaa, Justice Minister Nabih Berri's mainstay Shiite Amal militia mediated a swap of 14 hostages kidnapped by hooded supporters of Hizbollah and the SSNP on makeshift checkpoints in west Beirut overnight, police said.

The swap covered 12 SSNP supporters kidnapped by Hizbollah and two Hizbollah members abducted by the SSNP, the spokesman said.

However, the move failed to defuse tensions between the two antagonists as their forces remained on "maximum alert" in opposed localities they control in west Beirut and elsewhere in Lebanon's Muslim areas, police said.

The Jordan Times' new telephone numbers: 667171-6 and 670141-4

New York cardinal ready to help Beirut hostages

BEIRUT (R) — The Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York said Saturday he would do whatever he could to help secure the release of 22 foreigners, including five Americans believed kidnapped in Lebanon.

Cardinal John O'Connor told the Christian Voice of Lebanon radio: "Naturally I'll certainly do whatever I can to assist. If anyone could help me to help the hostages I would be very happy to do so."

O'Connor arrived in Christian Beirut by helicopter from Cyprus Saturday at the start of what he described as a purely pastoral three-day visit to war-ravaged Lebanon.

He said he would not interfere in any negotiations already under way to free the hostages, most of whom were seized by militant Muslim groups in or near mainly Muslim west Beirut over the past two years.

They include five U.S. citizens, nine Frenchmen, two Britons, an Italian, a South Korean, an Irishman, two Cypriots and a Franco-Lebanese woman.

Recent weeks have brought a

surge of reports on stepped-up efforts to free the kidnapped victims.

Syria, influential with many armed groups in Lebanon, says it has intensified contacts for their release, but some kidnappers have threatened to kill captives if Western or Arab nations put pressure on Damascus.

"I am here," O'Connor told reporters upon his arrival, "I am available. If (there are) hostages to see or hear me, I would want them to know how much their families love and support them."

He said he had spoken recently to the family of missing U.S. Roman Catholic priest Lawrence J. Jenco, 50, who was seized on Jan 8 last year. The clandestine Islamic Jihad (holy war) claimed responsibility for his kidnapping.

"They (Jenco's family) are praying every day and hoping that soon their brother and uncle will

return.... and that is true of the rest of the hostages," the cardinal said.

The spiritual head of Lebanon's dominant Maronite community, Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, and Minister of Economy Victor Kassir met O'Connor upon his arrival.

"I am very happy to be here in Lebanon at the invitation of the Maronite Church to whom I carry the greetings of the U.S. episcopate and the backing of the U.S. church and its admiration of the Lebanese people," O'Connor said in an arrival statement.

O'Connor is visiting Lebanon to review the Catholic Near East Welfare Association's activities.

Meanwhile the mother of a Greek Cypriot student, missing in Lebanon since April with a colleague, appealed to their captors Saturday to release them.

"This is an appeal for the release of the two Cypriot students Stavros Yiannaki and Panayiotis Tirkas. I am the mother of Stavros Yiannaki," she said in a broadcast on Muslim "Voice of Homeland" radio.

Reagan: U.S. 'disappointed' over failed efforts to free Lebanon hostages

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Ronald Reagan has said the United States has recently had a "great disappointment" in which seemingly promising efforts have failed to win the release of Americans held hostage in Lebanon.

Mr. Reagan, speaking to a group of out-of-town editors and broadcasters invited to the White House, refused to disclose any details of U.S. efforts to win the release of those still being held, saying "that would be counterproductive."

The president also said that Israel has "sworn to us" that it did not sponsor enlistment of Jonathan Pollard to spy against his country.

Following are excerpts from the president's remarks on the Middle East:

Question: Are you calling this — at least some of you — "The Year of the Spy"? How extensive is spying in this country, and what is your administration doing about it? And in particular, how extensive do you think Israeli spying is?

Answer: With regard to the Israeli spying on us, all we can tell you is that the Israeli government has sworn to us that this certainly is nothing official from them if there is such a thing going on, that they have not been doing this.

We have been doing all of the investigating we can. We have no evidence that it is a part of their government policy. But as to spies, I think they're always present. And we're — we do everything that we can to be able to identify and find them if they're doing these things. And the reason it has come to the floor and there's so much attention is, we've been

successful of late in bringing some of them to justice. But we're going to keep on with that, but we can never rule out that that's going on.

Q: A suburban Chicago priest, Father Lawrence Martin Jenco, has been held in captivity, hostage, if you will, in Lebanon for 17 months now, one of five Americans who have been held for at least a year. The family of Father Jenco today is calling you and the administration to take a more aggressive role in securing the release of those hostages. If you can tell me, what is the government doing now to get the hostages out and why haven't you been successful up to this point?

A: I can answer the question here — and let me just say to you, and I've — we've tried to impress this on the families of all of those hostages that are being held — we're not sitting idle. The fact that we're not on the front page of the paper every day with a story is because that would be counterproductive. There has never been a minute that we have not been working for that release.

We have gone down channel after channel and many of them have brought us to the point where we believed that within a few days we were going to be successful and then would find a dead-end, that it didn't work out. We have never given up for a minute in our efforts to get them back. But I cannot describe those efforts because, as I say, that would be counterproductive. And all I can do is tell you that we're going to continue, we've never given up for a minute in trying to get them back. We know the anguish of the families, but we know even more the distress of the men who are being held. And we've gone in every direction possible and followed every lead possible.

U.S. backs pullout of foreign troops from Lebanon

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Bernard Kalb, State Department spokesman, has reiterated that the United States supports efforts to secure the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

He said the United States also seeks "agreement on security arrangements that could assure stability in South Lebanon and security along the Lebanese-Israeli border, and to promote restoration of security throughout Lebanon."

"The United States remains in touch with all concerned parties inside and outside of Lebanon," Mr. Kalb added.

Saudi minister inspects military installations

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia (R) — Saudi Arabian Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Saturday inspected a squadron of Tornado fighter planes at King Abdul Aziz Air Base, 20 kilometres east of Dammam.

They are the first batch to join the Saudi Air Force under a \$5 billion (\$7.6 billion) arms deal with Britain for the purchase of 132 warplanes including 72 Tornados.

Addressing officers and men at the base, Prince Sultan underscored the kingdom's leading role in serving the Arab cause.

His visit was part of a tour during which Prince Sultan will inspect military installations at the kingdom's eastern region.

Tunis court verdict bans candidate from polls

TUNIS (R) — A Tunis court quashed and appeal Saturday against a conviction and four-month jail term for a prominent opposition leader, effectively eliminating him as a candidate for a general election due in November.

Ahmad Mestiri, 60, leader of the Movement of Socialist Democrats (MDS) and a former defence minister, was sentenced on April 22 for organising an illegal anti-U.S. demonstration following an American air raid on Libya.

Under Tunisia's electoral code, anyone sentenced to three months or more in jail may not stand as a candidate in a national election.

Mr. Mestiri's trial came at a time when Tunisia, which has close ties with Washington and which severed diplomatic ties with neighbouring Libya in September, was conspicuously silent about the U.S. bombing while other Arab states condemned it.

Defence lawyers had said in court that the MDS leader's trial was a political one and that the anti-U.S. protest was peaceful and not anti-government.

Big offensive brewing in Iran-Iraq war

The Iraqis have recently fought their way into Iran for the first time since 1982. But meanwhile the Iraqis may be preparing for a do-or-die offensive calling for every able-bodied Iranian to go out and fight. Kathy Evans reports on the state of the war.

BAGHDAD — Just a few days into the holy fasting month of Ramadan, Iraqi armed forces crossed the Iranian border for the first time since 1982. It marked the start of a new strategy of "active, mobile defence" since the war with the Islamic Republic began nearly six years ago.

The army crossed in two areas. First, they seized the Iranian town of Mehran in the central sector. Further south, the Fourth Army Corps crossed at Fakkeh. Although there may be no immediate objective in this flat desert area of Iran, some 75 kilometres away lies the populated town of Dezful and the main rail supply line for the Iraqis to the south.

For Iraq, a change of tactics is being seen as vital to boost national morale after the withdrawal of Iraqi forces in the Fao Peninsula in February.

But the incursions were limited and certainly no prelude to a large-scale invasion of Iranian territory. Beyond Mehran lies a range of mountains, some 1,500 metres high, providing no cover for Iraqi forces. It would take large numbers of brave infantry to press on. Nevertheless, for the first time in many years, the Iraqis are now forcing the Iranians to play their game. It is estimated that the Iraqis would need at least two divisions to retake Mehran.

Iraqi military officials privately concede the Mehran is no substitute for Fao. Mehran is a hollow victory, a town virtually devoid of civilians. The only real sub-

stitute for Fao is probably Khorramshahr, the Iranian city on the Shatt Al Arab waterway, which Iraq's leading general, Maj-Gen. Maher Abdul Rashid, is itching to capture.

But as always concern over casualties would rule out such an enterprise. Iraq cannot afford to lose many of its nation of 14 million, facing as it does a foe of 44 million. It is estimated that about 30,000-40,000 Iraqis died in the effort to gain the 90 square kilometre enclave in the Fao area. Some experts believe the Iraqis are still losing 150 a day, and that the enclave may in fact be moving a valuable "killing ground" for the Iraqis.

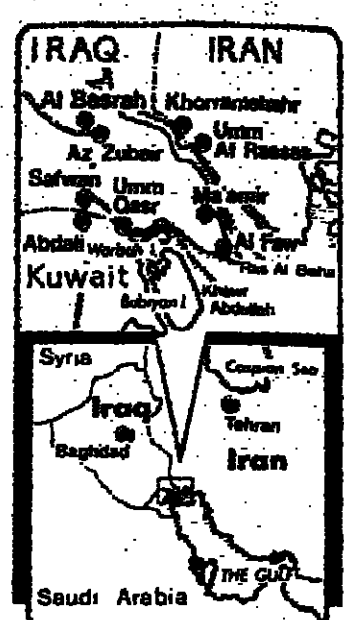
The Iraqis have talked for years of the "final offensive," a death blow to ruling Iraqi Ba'ath Party. Indeed, the Iraqis have talked of it for so long, that no one believes them now — not even when the circumstances fit the rhetoric.

In March, Ayatollah Khomeini made an historic speech in which he talked of the need to send all

able-bodied Iraqis to the front. As the country's supreme religious authority, his orders have placed religious obligations on the government. The result has been the largest ever mobilisation of the country has seen, involving one-fifth of all civil servants, women, members of parliament and senior government officials.

This time, the Iraqis are taking the rhetoric seriously. One Western analyst said "we all know — and the Iraqis know too — that something big is brewing." The Iraqis believe the offensive may be sooner rather than later, before Iran's financial situation deteriorates further. Strategists argue that if Iran leaves it until 1987, then Tehran may be less able to afford an all-out, do-or-die offensive. Moreover, the momentum and euphoria of the Fao incursion has to be maintained. The best time is on for summer or the autumn among Western military experts in Baghdad.

Most agree the Iraqis will once again attempt to cross through the marshes, from Majnoon Islands, where they lie just 15 kilometres from the road to Basra. In pursuit of this, the second largest city in Iraq, simultaneous thrusts are expected east of Basra from



the enclave in Fao. The Iraqis have in the past proved vulnerable to surprise attacks, but successful in recouping lost ground. But in the next and final offensive being planned by the Iraqis, the margin for error could be slim — Financial Times News Feature.

U.S. career officer may replace envoy to Lebanon

WASHINGTON — The leading candidate to replace Reginald Bartholomew in the sensitive and demonstrably dangerous job of United States Ambassador to Lebanon is John H. Kelly, a 46-year-old Foreign Service officer currently between assignments and attached to the State Department's management division.

Mr. Kelly, who is regarded as a tough-minded and knowledgeable career officer, has worked in a wide variety of jobs in 22 years at the State Department, most recently as senior deputy assistant in European and Canadian affairs, which he left last fall to await reassignment.

As yet no decision has been announced on a new assignment for Mr. Bartholomew, who has been in Beirut for close to three years and who was wounded in a terrorist car-bombing of the embassy. One possibility is Spain, to replace Thomas O. Enders. Ambassador Enders is leaving the Foreign Service for investment banking — The New York Times.

U.N. extends mandate of Cyprus force

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Greece has accused the U.N. Secretary-General of committing an error of judgment by pressing a Cyprus peace proposal despite Greek Cypriot objections.

The unusual criticism came as the Security Council extended the mandate of the U.N. peace-keeping force which maintains a buffer between feuding Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

The council voted unanimously to extend for six months, until Dec. 15, the mandate of the 2,328-man force, which has been in Cyprus since 1964.

Addressing the 15-nation council after the vote, Greek Ambassador Mihalios Dountas said Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's submission of a "draft framework agreement" in April could have been viewed as an effort to pressure the Greek Cypriots to make concessions. But, he said, he believed it was just "a mistake, an error of judgment" because it was clearly unacceptable to the Greek Cypriots.

Cyprus Ambassador Constantine Moushousas said the Greek Cypriots could not accept the secretary-general's proposal. He said the negotiations the U.N. chief suggested were impossible while some 18,000 Turkish troops remain in northern Cyprus. He said the first step should be an international conference, which the Soviet Union has proposed, to solve the troop withdrawal issue.

"The very presence of the Turkish troops, rules out any meaning of freedom to decide on the part of the Turkish Cypriot community, and has a gunpoint effect on the government of Cyprus," Mr. Moushousas said.

He said Greek Cypriots cannot accept Mr. Perez de Cuellar's contention that the Greek Cypriot proposal was not viable because

the Turks would reject it. "If that is the case we are in fact being asked to accept a victory 'peace' in Cyprus," Mr. Moushousas said.

The troops have been in Cyprus since the 1974 Turkish invasion. It was preceded by a Greek Cypriot coup d'etat aimed at uniting the entire island with Greece.

Turks have said most of the troops may be withdrawn but a token force must remain as a symbol of Turkey's guarantee for the security of the Turkish Cypriots.

Turkish Cypriots comprise a 20 per cent minority on the island. Ozer Koray, representative of the Turkish Cypriots, who have accepted the U.N. proposal as a basis for negotiations, said a solution requires "moderation and sensibility, and this is what we would have wished to see on the Greek Cypriot side, rather than an increased propaganda effort."

He said the secretary-general's draft "if concluded and adhered to in good faith by both sides could lead to bi-communal and bi-zonal federal settlement, based on the equal political status of the two peoples of Cyprus."

"We should all perhaps hope for the day the Greek Cypriot side will assume a positive attitude toward a negotiated settlement. Until then the Turkish Republic of

Northern Cyprus will continue its independent existence," Mr. Koray said.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, in a report to the Security Council, said: "I regret that since one side is not yet in a position to accept the draft framework agreement, the way is not yet open to proceed with the negotiations I have proposed for an overall solution."

"In these circumstances I am concerned by the dangers inherent in the present situation," he said. In his report, the secretary-general made public the text of his proposal for a solution.

Two legislatures would be created, one with 50-50 representation from the federated states, one with 70 per cent Greek members and 30 per cent Turkish members.

Important legislation will require separate majorities of both Greek and Turkish Cypriots in each chamber.

The president of the federated republic would be a Greek Cypriot, the vice-president a Turkish Cypriot. Both would have the power of veto on key legislation.

A constitutional court, including one Greek Cypriot, one Turkish Cypriot and one foreigner, would be set up to break deadlocks.

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Offers a shop with mezzanine — total area approx 60 sq.m. in Jordan Intercontinental Hotel area, against payment of key money. Interested local and foreign companies are kindly requested to contact Tel. 644377 or 641305.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali inspects exam halls

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali Saturday made an inspection tour of a number of halls where students are now taking general examinations. The examination session, which started Thursday, will continue until June 19. Nearly 50,000 male and female students are taking the tawjihi examination and 545,000 others are sitting for the secondary stage admission exams.

CAA choses site for Ma'an airport

AMMAN (J.T.) — Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Director General Khaled Mubammad Ali has said that the location of Ma'an airport, which is scheduled to be established this year, has been specified. In a statement to the local Arabic daily newspaper Sawt Al Shaab, he said that information about the site of the airport has been sent to the Land and Survey Department which will determine whether the land is owned by the government or the private sector. A CAA mini airports committee has recently approved the setting up of a number of small airports in different areas in the country.

Dajani inaugurates transport exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Rajai Al Dajani Saturday opened a week-long exhibition on means of transport in Jordan at the French Cultural Centre on Jabal Luweibdeh. The exhibition is organised by the French Cultural Centre in cooperation with the commercial section at the French Embassy in Amman.

Irbid health centre moves ahead

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry has asked Irbid Municipality to allocate a piece of land for setting up an integrated health centre in order to ease pressure on the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid. A ministry spokesman said that the project will be financed by a loan from the World Bank and that all designs have been prepared. According to the spokesman, the Health Ministry has asked Amman Municipality to allocate three pieces of land for health centres, the tenders for which will be announced shortly.

Swedish film week starts today

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and Her Highness Princess Wajidah will today patronise the opening of Swedish film week at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). The event is organised by the Swedish Embassy in Amman in cooperation with the RCC.

Ministry to open schools at Abu Nuseir housing estate

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education is going ahead with plans to open schools at Abu Nuseir housing estate at the start of the coming scholastic year. An official spokesman for the ministry was quoted by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, as saying that at first two schools, one for boys and the other for girls, will be provided for children living in the housing estate.

The spokesman, Dr. Zoukan Ubeikat, said that the Ministry of Education will later expand and build more schools in accordance with the needs of the local community.

According to engineer Abdul Halim Khalaf, director of the Housing Corporation's school project at Abu Nuseir, five school buildings at the housing estate have already been completed and the corporation plans to assign two of them for girls and two for boys in the preparatory and secondary stages. He said each school has 30 classrooms, laboratories and spacious grounds.

A corporation spokesman said that nearly 900 families have benefited from the project and will be moving to the new estate, adding that this number is expected to increase in three months time.

On June 3, the Housing Corporation distributed 280 housing units at the Abu Nuseir estate to their owners and the corporation's director general, Mr. Shafiq Zawaidah, said that the housing units will be ready for occupancy at the beginning of July. He said that the corporation will gradually distribute the rest of the units to beneficiaries.

Mr. Zawaidah announced that agreement has been reached with the Health Ministry to open a health clinic at the estate and he added that another agreement has been concluded with the Public Transport Corporation to operate regular bus services for the benefit of the residents.

The housing estate comprises 3,500 units but only 1,000 government employees have applied for homes at the site. The corporation has decided to offer the remaining units to members of the public and the Armed Forces.

He said a special central committee in charge of purchasing the cereals met recently and issued instructions to farmers to provide certificates of origin and other necessary information to these centres when bringing their crops for sale. The committee will examine samples of the crop to ensure that the cereals are of the required quality before paying the price. Dr. Lawzi added.

According to the government's set prices, one tonne of wheat is to be bought for JD 144, one tonne of barley for JD 90, a tonne of lentils for JD 180 and one tonne of chickpeas at JD 170.

The ministry's under secretary, Dr. Saleem Al Lawzi, earlier announced that similar centres have already opened in Ramtha, in Irbid Governorate, and in Amman Governorate.

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Minister of Interior Hassan Al Kayed (second from left) addresses a symposium on traffic safety and laws held Saturday at Yarmouk University Liaison Office in Amman (Petra photo)

Students begin activities at summer youth camp

AJLOUN (J.T.) — A week-long programme of cultural activities opened at the Ajloun permanent youth camp Saturday with a ceremony held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Minister of Youth 'Eid Dehayat deputised for Prince Hassan in opening the programme with a speech in which he paid tribute to the camp's organisers and the cooperation between the various universities and community colleges. He said that the programme, which is being attended by at least 100 students from Jordanian universities and community colleges, is a manifestation of maturity in the Jordanian youth movement and reflects the youth's trend towards carrying out useful activities to serve their community.

In this programme, the youth will be given the chance to acquaint themselves with Jordan's achievements in economic, agricultural and industrial fields and they will be exchanging views and ideas about what is best for their country, the minister said.

He expressed hope that the programme will be the beginning of wide-ranging cultural activities that will last throughout the summer. The minister also called on the youth to join his ministry's various cultural programmes to be held this summer.

Another speaker was Dr. Ali Al

Zaghal from Forum Humanum which is organising the programme. He said that the camp is a gathering of Jordanian youth who will be holding discussions on various issues which only concern youth but also the Arab Nation. The Jordan Forum Humanum is concerned with holding such discussions to find proper solutions to many problems and to deepen the ties of friendship and understanding among youth. Dr. Zaghal said.

Dr. Zaghal said that apart from holding discussions, the participants will be making field trips to development projects in Irbid Governorate and the Jordan Valley and will be hearing lectures and taking part in seminars on the Great Arab Revolt, Jordan's economic, educational and agricultural experience in addition to making trips to archaeological and tourist sites in the Kingdom.

Later, Mr. Amer Al Simadi from Forum Humanum made a speech in which he said Prince Hassan has expressed his keenness to create a nucleus of youth concerned with studying issues in Arab society.

Later, Mr. Sulaiman Al Musa, a historian, delivered a lecture on the Great Arab Revolt in which he explained the uprising of 1916 and the objectives of the revolt to serve Arab causes.

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W.German envoy opens SOS home for orphans

AMMAN (J.T.) — The formal opening of a home to accommodate orphaned and homeless children at the newly built SOS Children's Village in Amman was held Saturday. The home comprises three bedrooms, is surrounded by a garden and is supplied with utilities. The home was financed by the Jürgen Wahn Foundation of West Germany, which has built five other similar homes at SOS villages around the world.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels who made a speech in which he reviewed the activities and contributions of the Jürgen Wahn Foundation to similar acts of charity around the world to alleviate the sufferings of destitute children.

Also addressing the ceremony was Mr. Ja'afar Toukan, chairman of the board of trustees of the SOS Children's Villages Association. He outlined the objectives of the villages and programme for housing orphaned children.

A spokesman for the West German Embassy in Amman said that the foundation, established in 1981, was named after Jürgen Wahn who died in 1979 in a road accident. During his life, Jürgen Wahn devoted his time and wealth to helping destitute children around the world, the spokesman said.

The SOS Children's Village, near Tabarbour, last week opened its doors to five orphaned children who are now being cared for by trained "mothers" and preparations are underway for the village to receive as many as 100 homeless and destitute children, according to Mrs. In'ara Al Mufti, the director of the Queen Noor Foundation (QNF) which is supervising the village through an administrative association.

The village, she said, has been supplied with basic services and has a bakery, a supermarket and a kindergarten of its own.

The whole children's village project has been financed by the Kinderdorf-Verlag Organisation which has its headquarters in Innsbruck, Austria and which was founded by Herman Gemeiner. The organisation has established 87 similar villages around the world.

llobed grenades from makeshift machineguns and fired 50 calibre machine guns into Amal positions, according to police.

They said seven people were killed and 55 wounded in and around the shantytowns which have a combined population of 50,000 Palestinian refugees.

That topped to 127 dead and 613 wounded the overall known toll since the fourth round of the one-year-old war for control of the camps broke out May 19.

In Damascus on Friday, Lebanese Muslim leaders pledged not to allow Palestinians to build a "state within a state" in Lebanon but urged an immediate ceasefire at the Beirut camps.

Amal has charged Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat of trying to

Drastic, effective measures needed to reduce road accidents, Kayed says

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Hassan Al Kayed said Saturday that approximately 20,000 road accidents occurred in the Kingdom in 1985 with resultant damages estimated at JD 40 million and he said that in view of the human and material losses it is time to take drastic measures to deal with the situation on the roads.

Mr. Kayed was addressing a symposium, held at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office in Amman, organised by the university in cooperation with the British Council in Amman.

He said that the government plans to issue a new legislation governing court rulings pertaining to traffic violations and will set up a special office to increase public awareness about traffic rules. This office will be responsible for the task of taking the necessary measures to stop motorists from causing damage to public property and violating traffic regulations, the minister continued.

Mr. Kayed, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, in opening the symposium, said that the government is deeply concerned about the safety of the public and cannot allow the roads to continue sapping the country's human and material resources. The government will therefore introduce measures to end all chaos on the roads and ensure security for all, he added.

The minister, who described the number of fatal accidents on the roads as "tragedies," called on all members of the public and various organisations to work together for ensuring safety on the roads.

Also speaking was Dr. Khalaf Al Makhzoumi, the director of the continuing education and community service department at Yarmouk University, who said that Jordanian roads suffer from improper planning and poor design as well as the non-application of safety measures. If roads are improved and proper safety measures introduced there will be a

considerable reduction in the human and material losses on the Kingdom's highways, Dr. Makhzoumi said. He said that this endeavour requires the issuance of new legislations, new sets of specifications for roads and new measures to ensure safety.

He said that meaningful cooperation among various concerned parties and public organisations will ensure the success of any efforts to reduce the number of accidents on the roads.

Another speaker was from the London transport and planning research centre who urged all members of the public to join forces and put an end to the tragedies taking place on the roads.

Taking part in the five-day symposium are delegates from Jordan, Bahrain, North Yemen, Syria, Egypt, Libya and Iraq. They will be discussing 21 working papers dealing with road accidents, their causes and ways of reducing them, as well as road designs which ensure greater safety for passengers and pedestrians, the application of traffic regulations in addition to training and research on the subject.

King hopes for early Shultz visit to Mideast

(Continued from page 1)

soon. The agency quoted a Jordanian official as saying the meeting which was supposed to have taken place on Friday was postponed "because of the need for broader consultations."

According to AFP, an Arab diplomatic source in Amman said the Friday meeting was called off at the last minute by the Iraqi side for the purpose of including another point on the agenda.

AFP quoted its sources as saying that topics to be discussed between the Syrian and Iraqi side focused on preparing the right atmosphere for convening an Arab summit conference.

The agency said that Syria and Iraq have agreed in principle on a new date for the meeting.

Pretoria assails Security Council

(Continued from page 1)

outright civil war that's going on." Mr. Reagan told a press lunch.

"It is no longer just a contest between the black population and the white population, it is blacks fighting against blacks and that is because there is still a tribal situation involved there in that community," he said.

Mr. Reagan did not go into details but black-on-black violence has included bloody clashes this week in the Crossroads squatter camp in Cape Town.

Mr. Reagan declined to condemn the state of emergency under which police have been granted wide powers of search and detention and media coverage has been restricted.

"Let me say we regret it," he said. He also reaffirmed his opposition to tough economic sanctions against South Africa, saying they would be ineffective and would harm those the administration wanted to help.

"Whatever we did do in that line would militate against the people we're trying to help ... we're taking away the only contact and base we have there to help, to try and bring about a solution to this problem and an end to apartheid which we find repugnant," he said.

Mr. Reagan has adopted a policy of "constructive engagement" towards South Africa, hoping to convince it to abandon its policy of racial segregation through quiet diplomacy.

To forestall even tougher measures planned by Congress, Reagan imposed selective sanctions last September.

Lahd offers to disband SLA

(Continued from page 1)

area. If this is completed, then there is no longer a need for the South Lebanon Army," he said.

"If the Shi'ite Amal was able to carry out this task and provide security for southern Lebanon and all its various sects, then the SLA in the future would be prepared to disband and hand over control of the area to Amal."

Leaders of Amal in southern Lebanon, interviewed by Israeli-based foreign correspondents earlier this month, took credit for preventing Palestinian fighters from returning to South Lebanon.

Abdul Majid Saleh and Daoud Daoud, two key Amal figures in the area, stressed they would not tolerate a return to pre-1982 conditions, when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) maintained large artillery units there.

However, neither Shi'ite leader appeared ready to enter into a formal "security" agreement with Israel, which they described as an enemy.

Spine tingling encounter with the supernatural

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With the success of the musical "Annie" only a few weeks behind her, Vaessa Batrouni has gone on to produce what can only be termed another riveting piece of theatre — this time an opera called "The Medium."

Opening Monday at the Studio Theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre, "The Medium" on the surface seems to be rather unimpressive material for drawing crowds; it is a very dramatic piece that ends in tragedy and is sung in French. Yet, with her now well-known professionalism, her meticulous flair and sensitive direction and her ability to extract often quite remarkable performances from her players, Mrs. Batrouni has not only made "The Medium" a gripping, totally absorbing and very moving operatic piece, but one that is accessible to those who speak not a word of French.

Written by Jean Carlo Menotti, "The Medium" tells the story of a woman who makes her living from seances and gives the clients what they want by a series of deceptions. The table is rigged with wires and the medium's daughter, Monica, provides the dead with their voices. A harsh, cruel woman, Baba seems in Menotti's words to be "caught between the real world which she barely comprehends and the supernatural world which she doesn't want to know anything about."

Fearful presence

He life of fraud and manipulation, however, comes to an end when, during a seance, she feels a hand on her shoulder. Her world crashes around her, for suddenly everything she has thought to be true has been challenged and now, terrified out of her mind, she who once controlled other people is now controlled by fear. In a frantic bid to persuade herself that the hand she felt and the voices she hears are part of the normal world, she accuses her adopted mute son, Toby, of perpetrating the act.

But when even a violent beating does not extract the confession she so badly needs, she throws him out of the house. Slowly she drinks herself into a stupor to block out the voices and, while she is asleep, Toby creeps back to find Monica with whom he is in love. Awakening Baba inadvertently, Toby hides behind a curtain which moves gently as he cowers behind, unseen. Thinking it is the spirit that is haunting her, Baba grabs a knife and repeatedly stabs the curtain crying, "I killed the spirit."

The tragedy ends with Baba crouching over the dead body of Toby, spider like, whispering: "Was it you, was it you?"

Menotti got the idea for the opera during a visit to Vienna in 1936 where he was invited by his friends to a seance. Although totally sceptical, Menotti was nevertheless fascinated by the pathetic way his friends really wanted to believe that they were in fact talking to their dead loved one. Mrs. Batrouni, who saw the opera herself for the first time in Vienna, however feels that the clients of Baba do not come across in that way at all.

"They had lost a small child and one just feels moved by their human loss," she said. "If Menotti had really wanted to get across the idea of pathetic belief in spiritualism, then he should have perhaps used the idea of a friend that had died, not a child."

The seance

The Seance is in fact perhaps the most moving scene in the whole opera. The child, in the form of Monica, asks if his mother, superbly played by Pat Pengilly, is suffering so much. Weeping, the mother replies that she feels so alone, to which the child urges: "You must forget me, the dead only want to sleep."

The rest of the six strong cast also give remarkable performances. Singing to perfection the taxing part of the medium is Marie Koebele, who is totally convincing in her desperation. Tormented and vindictive, her powerful voice cuts through the air to raise the hairs on the back of the neck. The melodious part of the pure and innocent daughter, Monica — which contrasts vividly with the music of the medium, which shatters like broken glass — is beautifully sung by Lexi Hadadine. Edith Bilbasie and Collin Garland sing the smaller parts of the visitors to the medium while the part of the mute, Toby, is excellently portrayed by Philip Le Gal. Making the piano work like a small orchestra is the dramatic pianist Abba Shukair.

The idea to do "The Medium," which was originally written in English, began with Mrs. Batrouni and the French Cultural Centre

expressed a keen interest in helping her produce it, with the eventual idea of perhaps taking it on tour.

"I chose 'The Medium' as it is really an ideal studio opera for young singers," Mrs. Batrouni explained. "It is also very interesting to do as it is a dramatic director's piece which gives one the opportunity to explore lots of images."

Stark set

In fact, the set and costumes, which were designed by the director of the French Cultural Centre, Jany Bourdais, were kept very stark, abstract and anonymous which was in line with the timeless, placeless feel of the opera. The set, which consists of a table, four chairs and a large wooden chest, has a spartan bareness that makes one concentrate on the acting and the singing.

"By not having any elaborate lighting and decoration, the whole thing comes to depend on the drama of the piece and on the actors and their musical ability," Mrs. Batrouni said. "There is also fact that the music is so well written, so descriptive and emotive that you could almost understand the story without any words."

The very short intense rehearsal period of three weeks has been compatible with the nature of the opera which is a short (duration 50 minutes) and highly charged piece. It is also a piece that should not be missed. Running for two nights only, the tickets at JD 1 are available from the Royal Cultural Centre. The performance begins at 8 p.m.



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Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Building a consensus for development in Jordan

AN OPEN and constructive dialogue with and among economists and journalists from both the public and private sectors took place last week under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The dialogue lasted for over five hours, was extremely meaningful, ended with the positions of all participants made clear and more importantly, witnessed movement towards a consensus.

His Royal Highness was concerned about the persistence of criticism of Jordan, especially regarding its economic policies and doubts about the future performance of the Jordanian economy. Some of this very severe criticism, he observed, was coming from the very circles which only months ago were praising the Jordanian economic experience as a great success.

As expected, journalists complained bitterly of the gap separating them from officials. They stressed the lack of official information and demanded a wider freedom of access to information and expression. Officials on their turn complained that at least part of public opinion was sometimes carried away with unfounded rumours about events, despite the timely facts made public. Economists would like to build a consensus among themselves regarding the real problems, and the ability of the country to overcome them, through an agreed set of consistent and effective economic policies and measures.

Within each group there was a considerable range of opinions. The diversity of positions and opinions potentially could create confusion if left alone or neglected. The same diversity can be a source of pluralism and richness for the Jordanian experience if it were accorded the right leadership and the freedom of action. In such a case all various positions and opinions will be harmonised into the support of one major goal: The overall national security and economic well-being.

The Crown Prince was the major contributor. He presented his own ideas as a leader and intellectual. The major task he accomplished was to lead all parties to a national outlook, where all of them can see the final target and contribute towards achieving with their pluralistic and multi-disciplinary methods. In this fashion the final outcome is to add up all the strengths of the country rather than leaving them to neutralise each other. In simple words, Prince Hassan changed contradictions into integration, and subtraction into addition.

There was a general consensus that the media has a major role to play on both internal and external fronts, provided of course that the media earns and maintains credibility within Jordan and abroad.

Summer in Jordan

NOW that the summer is here, the local press is full of advertisements inviting citizens to spend a week or a fortnight abroad — in Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Italy and other countries. Unfortunately, there were very few advertisements outlining programmes for visits to summer resorts inside Jordan, say Ajloun, Zay and Dibbin, where chalets and other facilities have been prepared for summer holiday makers.

Of course some people will go abroad this year as usual but probably there will be complaints again that the tours abroad did not live up to the standards promised in the advertisements. Naturally, the tourist offices have a smart way of attracting people, offering trips to be paid by instalment, even without a down payment in some cases. Some of those who went on trips last year were not happy at all with the food, bed and tour arrangements, and on coming back aired their grievances to the Tourism Authority, which acted swiftly, imposing fines on some of the organisers and forcing others to issue refunds for the customers.

We hope there will be stricter instructions for these offices this year, forcing them to abide by regulations and avoid being fined for any manipulation, misbehaviour or abuse of trust.

But what about those Jordanians who cannot afford a trip abroad and who also would like to spend a summer holiday somewhere?

Jordan abounds with places that serve as summer resorts which Jordanians can enjoy from time to time. In Salt, Governor Mihem Khrisha recently announced a plan for improving the facilities at the national park at Zay with bigger space for car parks, wider roads and a cafeteria offering the vacationers a variety of services. Other improvements have been recently introduced to Dibbin and the facilities at Aqaba are being made more attractive.

Unfortunately, however, the Tourism Authority and the private sector have not been totally successful in improving facilities at summer resorts nor have they created the environment needed to encourage internal tourism. So once again it is the wealthier class that can enjoy vacations outside Jordan, but definitely not the poor.

If the latter cannot go abroad for a vacation, let us at least offer them the modest means for enjoying a holiday here in our own country.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Don't forget the Palestinians

THE world seems now to be preoccupied with the events in South Africa and the inhuman treatment of the black population at the hands of the racist regime in Pretoria. The Western media is giving coverage of the events, while the Western governments are not lifting a finger to give to the black population their legitimate rights and freedom. Neither the United States nor Europe is willing to exercise any political, military or economic pressure on the South African government to make it change its policy towards the indigenous population. The Western media are only reflecting the Western nations' interest in safeguarding the human rights of these people. This resembles a similar attitude on the part of the West with regard to the rights of the Palestinian people and towards their sufferings at the hand of the racist government in Israel. Though both the Israeli and the South African regimes are exercising discrimination against the local people, and continue to receive support from the same sources, nothing is being said about the terrorist and arbitrary actions committed in Palestine. We can only believe that the West is concerned about the blacks when they show a similar degree of concern about the Palestinians.

Al Dustour: A welcome development

AN agreement concluded between the leaders of the Islamic factions in Lebanon could mark a turning point in the Lebanese crisis and could usher in a period of positive actions designed to end the factional conflict in Lebanon. The Islamic groups in Lebanon have been involved over the past two years in fratricidal warfare: that aggravated the situation in Lebanon, and complicated matters for diplomats and mediators in Beirut and Damascus. Any agreement between Muslims on ending the fighting around the refugee camps and in west Beirut could pave the way for finding a way out of the present deadlock in the search for a comprehensive peace in Lebanon at large. We welcome the Damascus agreement between the Muslim factions and hope that the leaders of Muslim communities will realise that their continued fighting is bound to open the door for foreign domination and further destruction for their country.

Sawt Al Shaab: Ending the tragedy of Lebanon

ONLY the common enemies of Lebanon and the Arab World can benefit from the vicious circle of violence and the continued fighting now going on in Lebanon. This internal strife is causing so much suffering for many people in Lebanon and disaster to the Arab World. All the warring factions in Lebanon realise too well that their conflict is achieving nothing for any sect or group or party and yet they continue their street fighting, terrorising the people and bringing further destruction to the country. Unless the wise people of Lebanon and the heads of various groups come out victorious in their efforts to bring about a reconciliation among the Lebanese people, their country is bound to face further losses and a further trend towards the abyss. Despite the attempts of Arab and international forces, to mediate in the conflict the Lebanese seem to be determined to pursue the war and to cause further bleeding for their country. We believe that the Arab Nation should now take the initiative and make serious efforts towards ending this tragedy in Lebanon.

Nationalism rises anew in Baluchistan

By Ibrahim Khan
 Reuters

QUETTA, Pakistan — After years of quiet enforced by military rule, Baluchistan is witnessing a slow re-emergence of nationalist demands that made the province the "soft underbelly" of Pakistan. Nationalist graffiti and revolutionary posters, banned during the eight years of Pakistan's martial law which ended last December, are beginning to clutter the walls of Quetta, ramshackle capital of the impoverished western province.

Armed left-wing students are holding rallies to condemn what they see as U.S. influence. Even pro-government politicians are demanding a full inquiry into the army's bloody suppression of the Baluchi tribal insurgency in 1973-77.

Feelings are so strong that Benazir Bhutto, the opposition leader whose late father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto sent in the army to crush the tribal revolt, had to make a rare public apology for his decision on a tour here last month.

One of the most dynamic nationalist revivals is by the Baluchi Student Organisation (BSO), a tightly-organised left-wing movement demanding autonomy for the vast province bordering Iran and Afghanistan.

"The BSO is only one part of the Baluchi nationalist platform, but it has come out of the martial law period the best organised and most articulate group," said one western diplomat well-versed in the intrigues of Baluchi politics.

"They rival the Sardars (tribal chiefs) in their influence here and could do well if there were free elections they could contest."

Because the BSO contains many of the tiny minority of Baluchis who reach secondary school and university, it wields more influence here than a marxist-oriented student group would be expected to muster.

"If ever a Baluchi middle class emerges its members will invariably have had their political initiation through the BSO," wrote Mushahid Hussain, editor of the Islamabad Daily Muslim, after a long tour through the province.

The BSO is still banned. But more than 5,000 of its members held an open convention here in May, letting off bursts of automatic rifle fire every time the crowd chanted: "Down with America, long live Russia, long live the revolution in Afghanistan."

The BSO, founded in 1967 to press for more schools and colleges in Baluchistan, took a militant turn during the 1973-77 insurgency when it provided many of the guerrillas fighting the Islamabad government.

The insurgency was sparked off

when former prime minister Bhutto dismissed the elected provincial government. It ended only when Gen. Mohammad Zia Ul Haq overthrew Bhutto in 1977. The effects lingered on, especially after Soviet troops entered Afghanistan in 1979 and Western strategists warned that the Russians might continue over Baluchistan's barren mountains and deserts to the warm waters of the Arabian Sea.

Zia won some quiet through martial law and an increase in development funds aimed at winning over bitter Baluchis, many of whom never wanted to join Pakistan when it was formed in 1947.

For people like Yasin Baluch, newly elected chairman of the BSO, Zia's efforts have been too little too late.

Settlers from Punjab and the northwest frontier, the two influential provinces in Pakistan, continue to come here, making the Baluchis a minority in their own province, he said.

"We are still not considered equal citizens of Pakistan," Yasin told Reuters in a university hostel where students slept on stained old blankets spread out on bare concrete floors.

"We are treated like slaves. We are asked to find jobs in the Gulf while people from other provinces are coming here and taking work away from us."

Yasin cited widespread illiteracy and unemployment in Baluchistan, Pakistan's largest but most thinly populated province, and said the BSO felt that only autonomy — opposed by the federal government — could ensure it would be the equal of Pakistan's three other provinces.

The BSO also condemns what it considers imperialist programmes, like traditional recruiting of Baluchi soldiers for the Oman army across the nearby Strait of Hormuz or scholarships for Baluchis to study in the United States.

At its convention, the BSO passed resolutions denouncing what it says are naval facilities being built for the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force in the deep coastal ports of Gwadar and Panni. Pakistan says the ports are for fishing fleets.

As for the other superpower, the BSO has a pro-Soviet tilt, supports what it calls the revolution in Afghanistan, and wants to drive out Afghan refugees, who are increasing the number of ethnic Pashtuns settling in Baluchistan.

Afghanistan is reported to be training young Baluchis in guerrilla warfare. Western newsmen visiting Kabul last January met several Baluchis who said they were on six-month training courses there.

BSO leaders are reticent about their links to the Soviet-backed government across the border.

Pardon frees former Doe supporter in Liberia

MONROVIA (R) — Former Liberian Finance Minister Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, pardoned last Friday with other prisoners held in connection with a coup attempt, once supported the rule of president Samuel Doe, who shot his way to power over the bodies of her government colleagues six years ago.

The popular opposition politician believed the young soldiers who seized power with Doe in Africa's oldest black republic would make sweeping political and economic changes she had long advocated.

But until the surprise pardon announcement, the U.S.-trained economist and banker had faced the death penalty on charges of treason stemming from last November's coup attempt.

Johnson-Sirleaf, 46, denied involvement in the plot although she had become an outspoken critic of Doe's erratic and often ruthless rule.

During a tour of the United States last year she called Doe's government "a bunch of idiots."

When she arrived home she was tried and sentenced to 10 years.

Johnson-Sirleaf was pardoned following pressure on Doe from Washington, which also persuaded him to return the West African nation to democratic rule through elections.

She was finance minister when Doe's group overthrew the regime of president William Tolbert six years ago.

She sympathised with the soldiers' goal of ending nearly 150 years of rule by Americo-Liberians, descendants of freed slaves who returned to West Africa from the United States and proclaimed Liberia a republic in 1847.

Doe sacked Johnson-Sirleaf as finance minister when he came to power.

But he named her director of Liberia's Bank for Development and Investment, a job she held for 18 months before returning to the United States where she took a job with a major bank and moved to Kenya as one of its vice-presidents.



After Waldheim victory, Socialists seek time to regroup

By Jan Krenner
 Reuters

VIENNA — Kurt Waldheim's triumph in Sunday's presidential election ended 16 years of socialist rule and marked a turning point in Austria's politics, political leaders said last week.

They said the election of opposition-backed Waldheim, who takes office on July 8, over Socialist Party (SPO) candidate Kurt Steyrer was a sign that people are tired of SPO rule.

Waldheim's victory precipitated the resignation of Chancellor Fred Sinowatz on Monday after the election. Sinowatz, 57, retains the SPO chairmanship but handed the reign of government to finance minister and technocrat

Franz Vranitzky, 48, who will present a new government to incumbent president Rudolf Kirchschlaeger this Monday.

The Opposition Peoples' Party (ÖVP) has called for new elections saying Sunday's vote was an open signal by Austrians that they had had enough of SPO rule and the financial and corruption scandals that have plagued the Sinowatz government over the past three years.

"Last Sunday showed the people have had enough of SPO rule and want a change. This new government will bring nothing. We need new elections," ÖVP economics spokesman Josef Taus said.

"This government is at an end and a fifth reshuffle over a period

of three years will do nothing to improve its competence. This was a panic reaction," ÖVP leader Alois Mock said.

But SPO sources said by concentrating on internal affairs, Sinowatz hoped to revive his party's chances of recovering from Sunday's defeat in time for general elections next April.

But some raised doubts that Vranitzky, a banking and foreign trade expert who represents the right-wing of the SPO, will be able to pull the voters back.

After taking over the finance ministry in September 1984 Vranitzky signalled an end to subsidies for the country's money-losing nationalised industry and said it must pay its way even at the price of extensive manpower

cuts. Young Socialist leader Alfred Gusenbauer, a member of the SPO board who voted against Sinowatz's resignation, said the latest changes would do little to alter public opinion.

"Vranitzky has said and done things which are unpopular. His budget cut-backs favour industry and hit the people," Gusenbauer said.

His mood was echoed by other left-wing socialists who felt the SPO was worn out by its 16 years of government and needed a spell in opposition to regenerate itself.

"We need a period in opposition to be able to work out a new concept that will revert to old socialist principles," one lower-level SPO functionary said.

Contras take aim at farmers in renewed offensives

By Matthew Campbell
 Reuters

LA DALIA, Nicaragua — After a lull of almost a year, U.S.-backed rebels are once again making their presence felt in the fertile farmlands of northern Nicaragua.

Charred remains of buildings, twisted wrecks of mined vehicles and the boom of artillery in the lush, green hills signal a sharp upsurge in fighting around this isolated farming town, 190 kilometres north of the capital, Managua.

The Honduran-based rebels, known as Contras and battling to oust Nicaragua's left-wing government, have struck fiercely recently in an area that for nearly a year was virtually untouched by the violence.

The targets have been of little military or strategic importance. Those who appear to be worst affected, in what one Western diplomat described as Nicaragua's "dirty little war," are civilians.

Hardest-hit in the latest offensive have been state-supported agricultural cooperatives, declared legitimate military targets by the rebels who took up arms after the 1979 Sandinista revolution that ousted the U.S.-supported dictator Anastasio Somoza.

"They (the rebels) don't want us in these cooperatives. They want things back to the way they were before the revolution," said Centeno Estrada, 27, a peasant farmer and Civil Defence member at the Daniel Teller Cooperative near La Dalia.

He was standing near the burnt-out remains of his house three days after a group of 150 Contras surrounded the cooperative's cluster of wooden buildings and their 300 inhabitants, attacking with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine gun fire.

Most of the women and children took refuge in an underground shelter while 27 Civil Defence members, including Estrada, returned fire from makeshift trenches surrounding the buildings.

Estrada said 16 of his companions and three rebels were killed in a four-hour battle in which the rebels destroyed 13 houses and a school.

"We didn't stand a chance. They were firing rockets and grenades and all we have is our rifles," Estrada said.

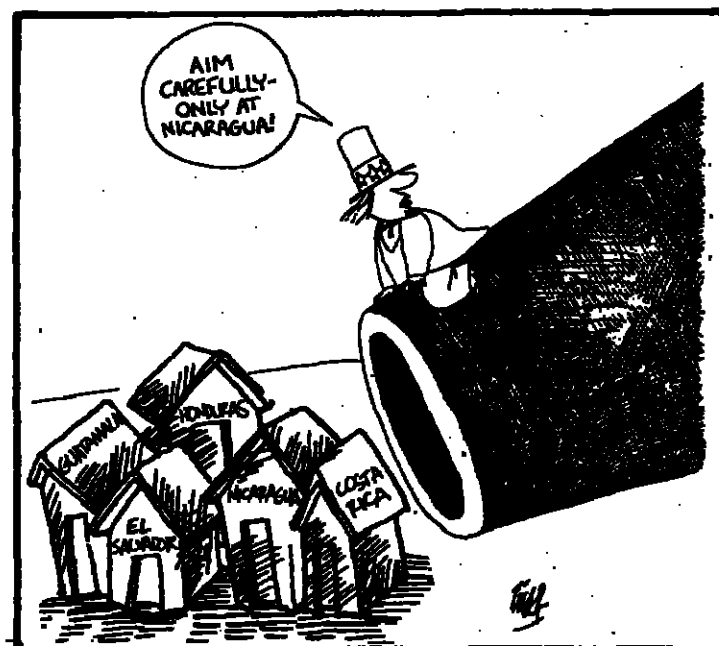
A seven-year-old child, Alejandro Hernandez, stood crying next to the trench in which his father had been killed.

He said he had been in the underground shelter during the battle and described how the rebels had tossed a grenade through the entrance. Twenty-two of the women and children were injured by shrapnel.

building and several houses were destroyed.

In May alone, 16 civilians, including a Spanish volunteer worker, were killed by anti-tank mines, Nicaraguan military officials in the region said. Another 10 were killed in three highway ambushes.

The military officials say the increased rebel presence in the region dates from the end of April when rebels of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) began the new push into Nicaragua from their sanctuaries in neighbouring Honduras.



An eight-year-old girl, Xiomara Flores Ortiz, was killed by the grenade.

"Everyone was crying and yelling 'don't shoot,'" Hernandez said, his eyes anxiously scanning the surrounding hills as the boom of artillery shells echoed in the distance.

Since April 28, the Contras have launched similar attacks on 12 cooperatives in different parts of the country.

Eight civilians died in raids on two cooperatives in the northern Estelí province, in which two warehouses, two trucks, a school

The officials estimated the number of Contras inside the country at between 3,500 and 4,000, out of a total force of 8,000. The FDN says it fields 15,000 fighters.

"But we have been keeping them on the move, breaking them up into small marauding groups," Lieutenant Daniel Sosa told Reuters in the provincial capital of Matagalpa.

"They haven't the strength to take on the army. All they can do is kill farmers — it just shows their military incapacity," he added.

Diplomats interviewed in Managua say the rebel policy of attacking cooperatives appears

aimed at undermining government attempts to organise the peasantry.

The ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) has successfully encouraged "cooperativisation" as a way of promoting political organisation among previously uncommitted peasant producers.

The latest offensive was timed, the officials said, to coincide with the renewal of a debate in the U.S. Congress on President Reagan's plans to give the rebels \$100 million in this year including \$70 million in military aid.

The officials said the rebels also planned to disrupt July 19 anniversary celebrations of the revolution that brought the Sandinistas to power in 1979. The festivities are this year to be held in the northern town of Estelí.

Critics of Reagan's proposal have said that despite more than \$100 million already funnelled by Washington to the rebels since they began their war in 1981, they still appeared far from posing a serious military threat to the FSLN.

Military and diplomatic sources say the rebels were under U.S. pressure to achieve results in exchange for new funding.

The sources said that without any U.S. assistance — limited to humanitarian aid since October 1984 — the rebels would find it increasingly difficult to sustain their war.

Last year was a bad one for the Contras, who were outmanoeuvred by a more mobile Sandinista army that had profited by the acquisition late 1984 of sophisticated MI-24 Soviet helicopter gunships and from better use of rapid deployment battalions, the sources said.

In late December, the shooting down by the Contras of an MI-8 helicopter using a SAM-7 missile served as a warning against complacency by the Sandinistas.

But rebels had failed to capture any towns and diplomats said they appeared to suffer from leadership problems as well as the lack of any coherent political programme.

Preliminary excavations at Aqaba reveal its Islamic remains are almost intact

Text and photos
By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AQABA—Like many other sites in Jordan, the modern city of Aqaba is only the latest revival of a settlement that has existed here for thousands of years. Until this year, Aqaba had never been systematically surveyed for archaeological remains, and it had been generally assumed by most archaeologists and historians that little if any of ancient Aqaba remained to be unearthed, though its ancient history has been pieced together from literary references, isolated archaeological remains, and excavations in the vicinity.

A brief three-week season of excavations at Aqaba earlier this year has produced conclusive and exciting evidence that much of the early Islamic and medieval Arab city remains largely intact beneath the sands that have blown over the site during the past 1400 years.

An American-Jordanian team of archaeologists, led by Dr. Donald Whitcomb of the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute, has uncovered substantial architectural and archaeological remains from the late Byzantine, Umayyad, Abbasid and Fatimid periods, spanning the 7th to 12th Centuries A.D. They also excavated artifacts from the Nabataean and Roman towns that are known to have existed here during the Classical Period.

Dr. Whitcomb's findings should contribute greatly to filling in gaps in the history of Jordan in the early medieval Islamic period, as very little archaeological evidence from the Abbasid and Fatimid eras has been excavated to date in the rest of the country.

The Aqaba dig should also increase our knowledge of the culture and history of the very earliest Islamic forces who moved north from the Arabian Peninsula in 630-640 A.D. to begin the Islamic conquests. Initial findings suggest that the early Islamic settlement being excavated at Aqaba may be the remains of a minor, or a fortified military camp that evolved into a proper planned town.

It is possible that remains of earlier, pre-Nabataean settlements from the Iron, Hittite and Chaldean periods may be uncovered in future seasons. Other previous excavations in the area have revealed early-to-mid 1st Millennium B.C. Iron Age settlement at Tell Al Khalefah (north-west of the city, along the present armistice line) and a Chalcolithic settlement from the 4th Millennium B.C. at Tell Maqas, alongside the road to the airport.

Its location at the junction of land and sea routes linking Europe, Asia and Africa has always made Aqaba a strategic port for maritime trade—as indicated by the city's role today as a busy international port. The presence of sweet water only a few metres below the surface of the earth enhanced ancient Aqaba's attractions as a settlement site during ancient periods.

It was probably inhabited at the end of the 2nd Millennium B.C., when it would have been the southernmost port-settlement of the Edomite Kingdom. The biblical Ezion-geber and Eloth/Eloth, whether the same or two separate towns, are known to be in the Aqaba area, though neither has been conclusively identified with a modern site or archaeological tell.

In the 10th Century B.C. Ezion-geber ("which is near Eloth, on the shore of the Red Sea, in the land of Edom..."), according to biblical references in I Kings 9:26-28) was the port from where King Solomon's ships departed to trade with the rich kingdom of Ophir. This is also thought to be the port where the Queen of Sheba disembarked on her journey to visit King Solomon in Jerusalem (I Kings 10).

After the Edomites permanently controlled the port of Eloth/Eloth ("palm trees") in 734 B.C., its name changed to Aila. During the Greco-Roman Byzantine period, it was variously known as Aela, Haila, Ailane, Aelana, Elana, Elanitique, Ailath, Aelath, or Leana.

The Edomites passed on the town to the Nabataeans, who developed it into an important maritime city and emporium on the trade route between China, India, Southern Arabia, Petra and the Greco-Roman markets of the Mediterranean. It may have been during Nabataean times that the city of Aila moved to the site of present-day Aqaba, if, as some historians believe, the original Ezion-geber/Eloth/Eloth was located closer to the centre of the northern shoreline of the Gulf of Aqaba.

When the Hellenistic Ptolemies of Egypt captured Aqaba from the Nabataeans, they changed its name to Berenice. The Romans took control of Aqaba (which they called Aila) in 106 A.D., and maintained its importance as the southern terminus of the Via Nova

Traiana ("Trajan's New Road"), linking Bostra, in southern Syria, with the Gulf of Aqaba.

By the late 3rd Century A.D., around 295 A.D., the city was fortified and garrisoned by the Roman 10th Fretensis Legion. The famous Peutinger Table (*Tabula Peutingeriana*), a medieval (11th-13th Century A.D.) map probably based on a copy of a 2nd Century A.D. Roman era listing of cities by the writer Ptolemy, lists Aqaba as "Haila".

In the early Byzantine period, by 325 A.D., Aila was the seat of a bishop. The Bishop Petros represented Aila at the ecumenical council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. The city's bishopric was also represented by the Bishop Berille at the council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.) and by the Bishop Paul at the Jerusalem council (536 A.D.). The Roman Catholic Church today still maintains a title of the Bishop of Aqaba.

Fragmentary remains of Byzantine churches that have appeared in Aqaba over the years confirm that the city had at least one, and probably several, churches. Such fragments of Byzantine churches discovered in Aqaba include marble screening elements; two capitals, each with two figures on adjacent sides (on one side, and standing between two phoenixes, are bas-reliefs of two angels holding a globe with a cross on the left hand and a staff in the right hand, and on the adjacent side the warrior saints Theodore and Longinus, with hal-

oes around their heads); and a capital with half-length figures of St. George and St. Isidore.

The military character of the two saints is perhaps not surprising. In such a distant and vulnerable town on the frontier of the Byzantine empire the inhabitants would have sought all possible protection, both temporal and secular.

In the late Byzantine period, just before the advent of Islam in the early 7th Century A.D., the city was controlled for the Byzantines by the pre-Islamic Christian Arab Ghassanids. It was the Bishop Yuhanna Ibn Rubah of Aqaba who submitted peacefully to the Muslim forces at Tabuk in 630/31 A.D. In 639 A.D., the Caliph Omar passed through the city and stayed with the bishop.

In 634 A.D., the Muslim leader 'Amr Ibn Al 'As used Aila as his base for military campaigns in southern Jordan and Palestine, and it is possible that this year's excavations have uncovered parts of the fortified military camp (*misr*, in Arabic) that 'Amr Ibn Al 'As probably established at Aqaba.

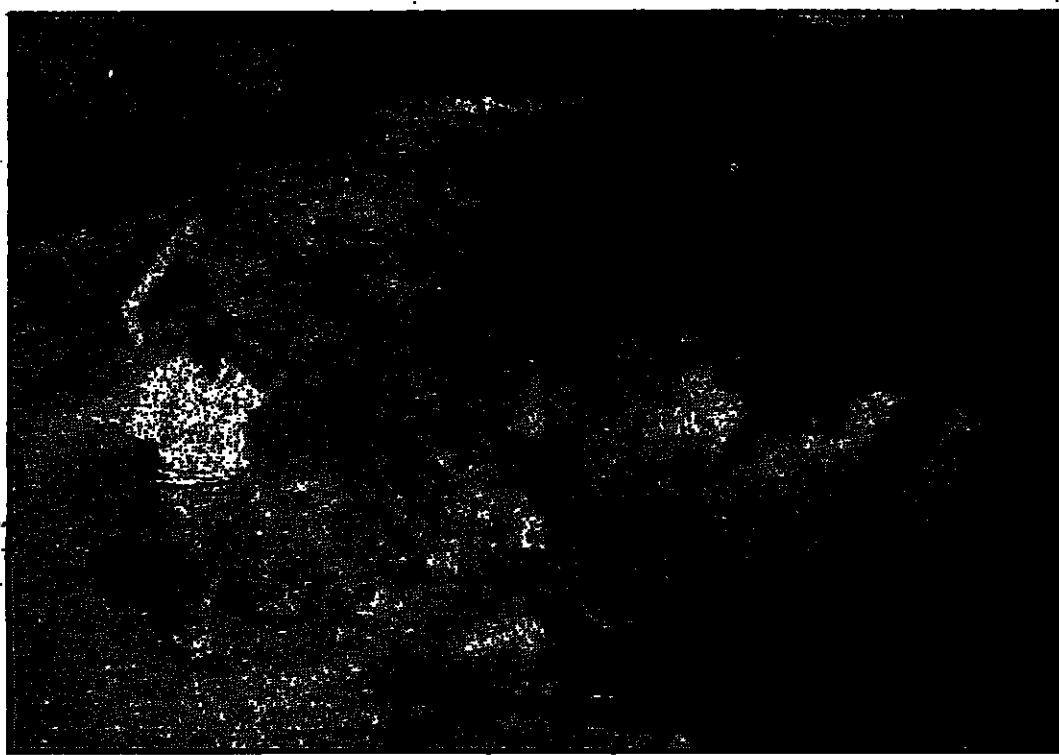
There is also a reference to Aqaba in the writings of Ibn Khordadbeh (around 816 A.D.), who mentions "Qulzum, Al Tur and Ayla" in his list of the Kurah of Misr (the Provinces of Egypt). In his *Kutub Al Buldan*, the noted late 9th Century A.D. Arab writer Ahmad Ibn Abi Yakub Al Yakubi, who died in 897 A.D., wrote: "The city of Ayla is a great city on the shore of the Salt Sea and in it

gather the pilgrims of Syria, Egypt, and the Maghreb. There are numerous merchants and common people and the people remember that they were the mawali of Othman Ibn 'Affan. There is a silk garment which they say was the garment of the prophet and was the gift to Rubah Ibn Yuhanna when he came to Tabuk."

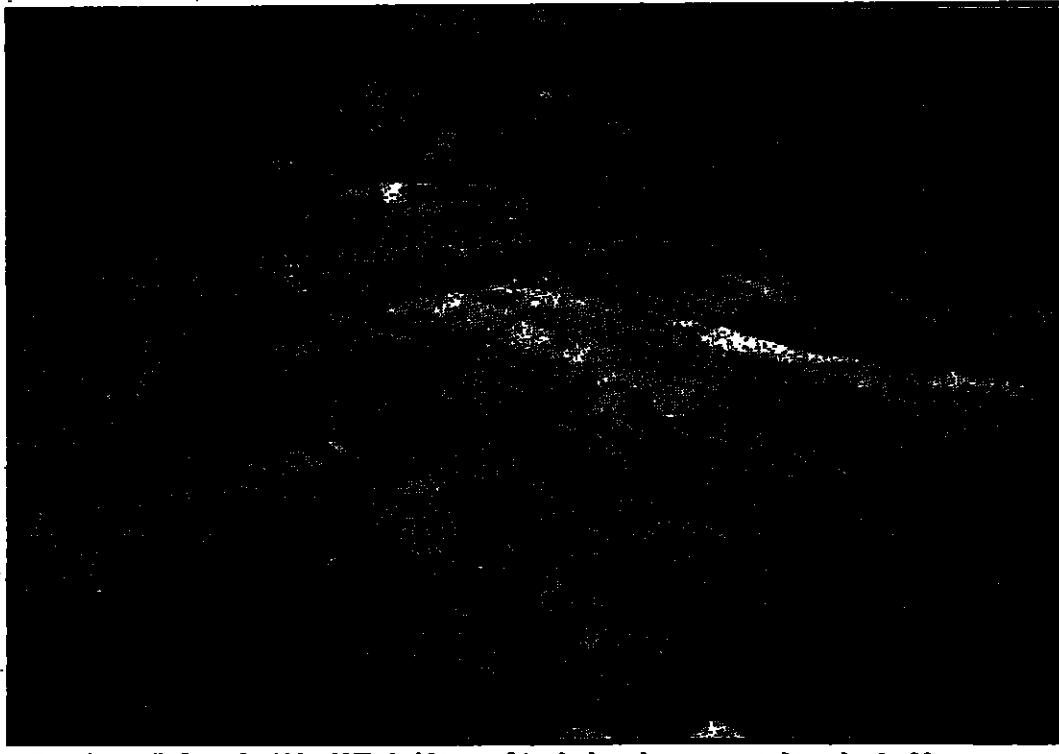
In early Islamic times, Aila continued to serve as an important station along the pilgrims' route to Mecca and Medina, and was generally considered to belong to the territory of Syria. In 985/86 A.D., the Arab writer Al Muqaddasi called Aqaba the "port of Palestine".

He wrote: "Wayla, at the very end of the eastern arm of the sea, is a chief place, active and important, with palms and its fish; it is the port of Palestine and the granary of the Hijaz. It is usually called Aila, but (the true) Aila, ruined is very near... Concerning Wayla, there is intercourse between the people of Syria, the Hijaz, and Egypt, it is a (meeting place) like Abbadan."

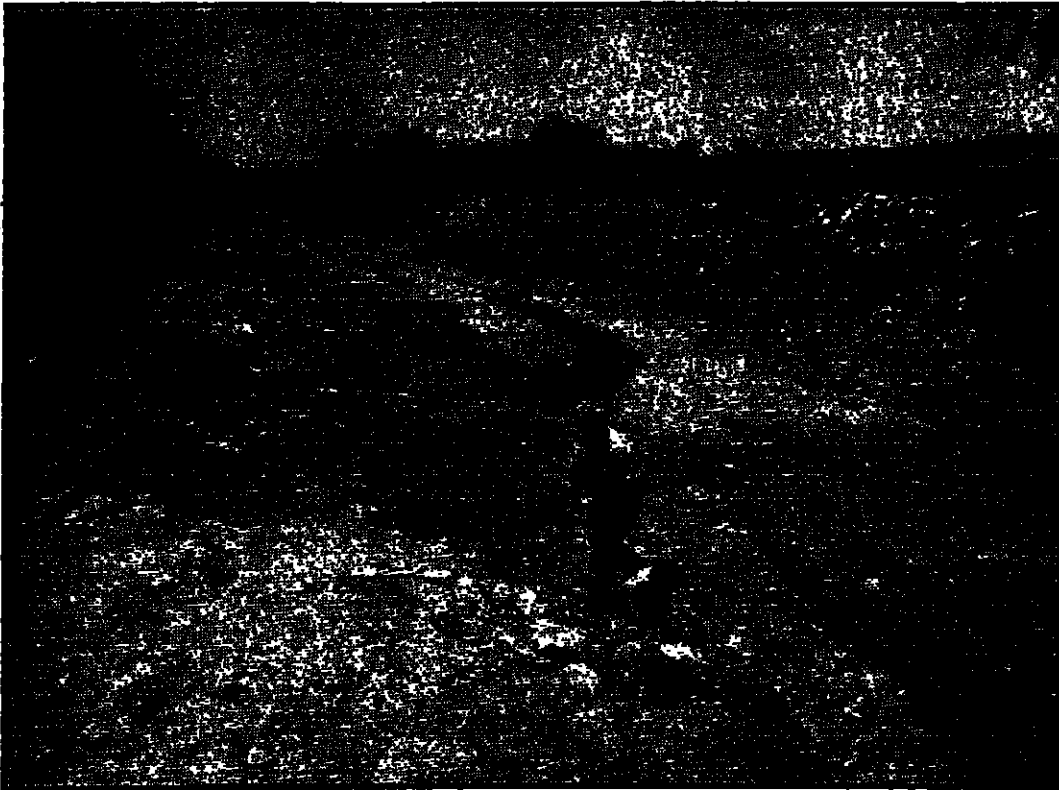
In 1024 A.D., the city was sacked by Abd Allah Ibn Idris Al Jafari and Bani Jarrah, reflecting the general anarchy that reigned in this area and permitted assorted Syrian groups often to revolt against the Fatimids. In 1072-73 (Ibn Taghribirdi recorded), Aqaba was badly damaged by an earthquake, though he was writing several centuries after the fact and his accounts are not fully credible, according to some scholars.



Don Whitcomb points out the mudbrick casemate town wall excavated along the south-west side of medieval Aqaba.



Standing walls from the Abbasid/Fatimid town of Aqaba have been excavated to a depth of four metres, and still more lies to be discovered under the sand.



This view down the drainage channel towards the sea shows the elevation of the archaeological tell that contains ancient Aqaba beneath it, along the right side of photo and heading towards the sea. In foreground, Don Whitcomb and a young assistant examine a column base that lies in the drainage channel.



'Harry has agreed to pay me for every game he watches,' Love And Marriage, Friday 9:00

Channel Two Preview

No compromise, no prisoners

By J.H. Boteler

I AM sorry that this column is a day late, but the world cup line-up was only finalised early Saturday morning, and in any case I could not have told you any more about last night's programmes than was available in the page 2 listings. But all is now rectified:

Comedies and documentaries

In *Me And My Girl*, (tonight), matchmaking is attempted on behalf of a rather ugly girl, while tomorrow, (Monday), sees the start of *Growing Pains*, the fretful saga of a psychiatrist who stays at home minding his children while his wife carves out a career for herself in the outside world. A runaway chicken causes consternation on Tuesday in *Amadeus*, and on Wednesday Jack gets so worried about the prospects for his restaurant licence being renewed in *Three's Company* that he throws a very up-market party. On Thursday *Home To Roost* bow out with son Michael attempting a wedding anniversary reconciliation between his parents. (This episode will see the first time that John Thaw and his real-life wife Sheila Hancock appear together on screen).

On Friday *The Scientific Legacy Of The Arab World* looks at the contributions made by the Arabs in the field of chemistry.

Detectives, drama, and feature films

Tonight *The Master* gets involved in a very odd tale about buried treasure left by some 18th century pirates, but it will be very hard pressed to match the excitement displayed by Brian Blessed in this department in *The Master Of Ballantrae*! On Monday *The Black Tower* begins to wind up to a (presumably) messy conclusion. We now know for certain the official trademark of these P.D. James T.V. serialisations. It is *The Female Corpse In The Bed* that closes an episode. In *Shroud For A Nightingale* there was Nurse Fallon, horribly poisoned. "Cover Her Face" had Sally Jupp, severely strangled. Both presided over the closing credits bug-eyed and mouths agape. At least Grace Willson, the present incumbent, had the politeness to look serene. But murdered she surely be. On Tuesday *The Equalizer* is called in by a mother worried about son being involved in drugs and bad company. On Thursday the gorgeous Cybil Shepherd returns in *Moonlighting*.

In the drama stakes Tuesday sees the penultimate episode of *The Bird*, which last week reached new heights with its sophisticated and intelligent dialogue. Poor Bobby: so good-looking, so urbane, and he has made the bad mistake of falling for Sam, who I am beginning to think is more than a bit unbalanced. This week he pays very dearly indeed for letting his heart rule his head. Friday has another tale from the *Love And Marriage* series, this one entitled "Flying Lady." It stars Frank Windsor as Harry, 55 years young, and re-examining his life after 30 years of marriage. New roads are open to him: which one will he

explore? the road mapped out by his bossy wife, or the road where adventure beckons and he can realise his dream?

Thursday's feature film is *Nuncio*, deferred from last week, in which a mentally retarded teenager daydreams of being Superman. Finally, Friday has *Falcon Crest*, in which Angela Channing's lawyer declares his undying love for her and proposes marriage. With judgment like that, I would hate to have him defending me in court.

Anyway, enough of such petty trivialities. It is time to get down to the really serious viewing, the life and death questions, the inspiration for this week's rather alarming headline, namely:

The World Cup

This is turning into a really superb competition. There are several reasons for this. First, the generally even standard of the teams, and the fact that no fewer than five or six of them have a good claim to end up eventual winners. Second, the final two games in each group kicking off at the same time ensured not only that a repetition of the infamous Austro/German pact of 1982 could not be repeated, but that, along with 4 of the 6 third placed teams qualifying, major issues were in the balance right up to the very final whistle early yesterday morning. The third reason is implicit in two statistics: 84 goals so far, and about 50 bookings. The two figures are directly related. The first, high for this stage of the competition, has been helped that for once referees are not afraid to deal severely with crude and violent tactics from players whose natural vocation is Kung Fu. This has enabled players of class such as Maradona, (what a beauty he notched against Italy), to flourish. The general depressed state of world soccer desperately needs an entertaining and positive show-case. The last reason to be optimistic about the coming contests is that from here on it is a straight knock-out competition: fortune will favour the brave, and there will be no room for playing for draws.

Tonight

Mexico v. Bulgaria (9:00). The host country's rather fortuitously easy path in the competition continues here, against a very unimaginative Bulgarian side. They had better make the most of it: they hardly impressed in their group matches.

Soviet Union v. Belgium (12:50): Shortly after the Chernobyl disaster, the Liverpool fans, whose wit is always sharp if also caustic, claimed that the Russian World Cup anthem was a variation of a popular English supporters chant, and ran: "Here we glow, here we glow, here we glow." Well, glowing they certainly are, though in a different sense. True, one of the reasons for their irresistible play is the fact that the majority of their team come from Dynamo Kiev, as does their manager. However a good proportion of these hail from the excellent footballing region of the

Caucasus. (I will never forget a March night in 1981 when Dynamo Tbilisi destroyed my own favourites, West Ham). If they have a weakness, apart from their exhaustive 100 mph running rate, it is that they appear to have little other options than playing the ball straight down the middle. Even so, they should prove too much for a spirited but limited Belgium team.

Monday

Brazil v. Poland (9:00): Brazil are one of only two teams with a 100 per cent record, and they are the only team who have yet to concede a goal. Also, and more pertinently, it was only against Ireland that they began to flex their muscles and step up their game. The second goal in that game was a vicious drive, while the third was a gem of close skills in the box. (Poor Pat Jennings: what a way to spend one's 41st birthday). Poland should cause them few problems; after their marvellous record in the World Cup over the last 12 years, they are frankly a bit of a disappointment.

Argentina v. Uruguay (12:50): Like Brazil, Argentina have been pacing themselves so far, which makes them all the more dangerous. Maradona is at last blossoming on the world stage and, despite having a player named, rather disconcertingly, J. Brown, they have all the traditional South American skills in depth. Uruguay, unfortunately, represent the seamier side of the coin. Their match against Scotland was, quite simply, a disgrace. It is a pity that one of the potentially most skilful teams, and one which should benefit from the strict refereeing, should resort instead to loutish thuggery and bully-boy tactics. Full marks to the French referee

for his bravery in sending off a player after 40 seconds in that game. There is, of course, possibility that this match could descend into a brawl, but I sincerely hope that Argentina let their football do the talking, and that they completely overrun Uruguay.

Tuesday

Italy v. France (9:00): Yummy. The final we were denied in 1982, courtesy of Herr Schumacher. Italy traditionally get stronger the longer that a World-Cup progresses, and will relish this showdown. France, to my mind, are one of the most inventive and complete teams in the competition, though they do have a weak point in their goalkeeper, who appears totally incapable of dealing with high balls and crosses. Significantly though, Platini has used his vast experience to conserve himself in the group matches. Expect him to explode in this game: after all, he does know the Italian players inside-out.

Morocco v. Germany (12:50): With all due respect to Morocco, if someone had suggested two weeks ago that they would win their group, they would have been considered deluded optimists. But group winners they certainly are, and deservedly so. They didn't just beat Portugal, they murdered them, and if they had been a bit more positive against England, they would have beaten them as well. The Germans are, as usual, gruffly efficient and dangerous, but Morocco have the added incentive of revenge against Algeria, their Maghreb brothers, victims of match-fixing in 1982. Also, in Mexico in 1970, Morocco led Germany 1-0 for some time before going down 1-2.

Wednesday

England v. Paraguay (9:00): After one of the bleakest and blackest weeks in their international football history, England finally came gloriously good against Poland. This was caused as much by desperation and injured pride as by the fact that the changes enforced in midfield by the absence of Robson, (dislocated shoulder), and Wilkins, (dislocated discipline), brought in Reid and Hodge, and provided the drive and motivation so sorely lacking before. Also, Lineker finally showed the sharpness and finishing that harvested him over 40 goals last season. Paraguay, apart from the distinction of providing the first managerial sending-off of the competition have a defence that looks alarmingly static and square, and a collective herd-instinct that makes them flock around the referee in times of stress. They also have a very fast and skilful attack, centred around the lethal Roberto Cabanas.

Denmark v. Spain (12:50): A repeat here of the 1984 European championship semi-finals. Whether Spain will repeat their success this time has to be in doubt. They are extremely inventive and cohesive, but one suspects that Denmark will always have that little bit more in any given situation. (They also have an exceptional goalkeeper). All in all, a very fitting end to this week's round of games.

Tonight

Me And My Girl8:30
Mexico v. Bulgaria9:00
The Master11:00
Soviet Union v. Belgium12:50

Monday

Growing Pains8:30
Brazil v. Poland9:00
The Black Tower11:00
Argentina v. Uruguay12:50

Tuesday

Amadeus8:30
Italy v. France9:00
The Equalizer11:00
Morocco v. Germany12:50

Wednesday

Three's company8:30
England v. Paraguay9:00
The Brief11:00
Denmark v. Spain12:50

Thursday

Home to Roost8:30
Moonlighting9:00
Feature Film: Nuncio10:20

Friday

The Scientific Legacy Of The Arab World8:30
Love and Marriage9:00
Falcon Crest10:20

Mayotte upsets Edberg to face 'old man' Connors

LONDON (R) — Tall American Tim Mayotte continued his giant-killing run through the London Grass Court Tennis Championships Saturday, beating Sweden's third-seeded Stefan Edberg 7-6, 6-1 to earn a final appointment with Jimmy Connors.

In 24 hours, Mayotte, 25, has beaten the Wimbledon and Australian Open champions, following up his 6-3, 7-6, 6-2 upset of second-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany with Saturday's more decisive demolition of Edberg.

Connors, 33, cantered to an even easier 6-3, 6-4 victory over unseeded compatriot Robert Seguso and the top seed, playing in his first tournament since a 10-week suspension, takes a perfect record into Sunday's final.

Champion in 1972, 1982 and 1983, Connors has never lost in the final of this Queen's Club event.

Mayotte, seeded eighth, has tangled with Connors eight times and beaten him twice, most recently in the U.S. Pro Indoor quarter-finals in Philadelphia in January. He reached the final against Ivan Lendl, but had to withdraw with a pulled stomach muscle which kept him out of the game for six weeks.

Connors avenged that defeat in Florida in March and is now seeking his first tournament title since October, 1984. "He's going to be very hungry, not having won in so long," Mayotte said. "But I'm as hungry as I've ever been and I'm

playing as well as I've ever played."

"One of my goals this year has been to beat the top players in big situations and I've been doing it against the younger guys this week," he added. "Now I'm ready for the older man."

Mayotte and Edberg, 20, are both natural serve and volley players but the American had the stronger groundstroke game and the more solid temperament Saturday.

Yet there was little to choose as they exchanged early service breaks before proceeding to the tie-break. The first three points were all lost by the server to leave Edberg ahead, but a great lob brought Mayotte level at 4-4.

Another brilliant lob on the 13th point sent Edberg chasing in vain to the baseline, giving Mayotte set point, which he won to take the tie-break 8-6.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

French keeper struggles to regain fitness

GUANAJUATO, Mexico (R) — French goalkeeper Joel Bats Friday tested his injured right knee with light exercises in a bid to get fit for Tuesday's World Cup second-round match against title holders Italy in Mexico City. Bats, automatic choice for France for the past three seasons, did stretching exercises and jogged on the sidelines as the rest of his colleagues trained on the Guanajuato University pitch. His bruised knee was heavily strapped before the session. "I won't know whether I can play until Sunday or Monday, but there's no way I'll play without training," he said. Bats aggravated the injury in last Monday's final first round Group C win over Hungary in Leon.

Algerian goalkeeper released from hospital

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — Algerian goalkeeper Nacereddine Drid was released from San Jose Hospital after being treated for three broken ribs suffered in a 3-0 World Cup loss to Spain, hospital and World Cup officials said. Drid collided with Spanish defender Andoni Goicoechea early in the match and needed two minutes' treatment. A few moments later the goalkeeper collided with one of his own defenders and was taken from the field on a stretcher. A statement by the World Cup Organising Committee did not say which collision caused the broken ribs. Drid left the hospital Thursday for Guadalajara, the headquarters of Group D. Algeria was eliminated after the first round, finishing with one draw and two losses for a single point.

Uruguayan tactics 'disgusting'

By Lawrie Morrison
Reuter

MEXICO CITY — South American champions Uruguay cheapened a tournament already tarnished by negative tactics, violent tackling and weak refereeing when they squeezed into the second round of the World Cup Friday.

Despite being reduced to 10 men by the fastest sending off in the 56-year history of the World Cup finals, they achieved their objective of a goalless draw against Scotland in Nezahualcoyotl and now face a potentially explosive clash with Argentina in Puebla on Monday.

The result, another victory for cynicism at the expense of entertainment, brought the two-week first phase of the competition to an unsavoury close.

The Scots' failure to breach the Uruguayan defence meant they have failed to get beyond the first round in their last four appearances in the finals.

But at a post-match press conference manager Alex Ferguson said he was pleased to be going home because the "Uruguayan behaviour turns the game into a farce."

Asked to comment on their opponents' tactics, Ferguson replied: "I was saying to myself 'What the hell is going on out there?' It's not football, these people have no respect for each other."

Earlier, Uruguayan manager Omar Borrás had accused French referee Joel Quiniou of being a murderer, a reference to his decision to send off defender Jose Batista for a sickening knee-high tackle on Gordon Strachan only 40 seconds into the game.

Ferguson countered by saying Borrás was defending his team and his tactics by "lying and cheating."

Former England international Bobby Charlton, one of the game's finest ambassadors and now a TV commentator, said he had been "disgusted" by the Uruguayans. "I don't think we'll ever be able to beat these people, not if they play like that," he added.

Batista's swift departure from the action followed the dismissal of colleague Miguel Bossio in the match against Denmark last Sunday.

The Uruguayans' sad betrayal of their natural skills means they will be forced to go into the match against Argentina, the 1978 champions, without three key players.

Batista and Bossio are automatically suspended after receiving red cards and Victor Diogo ruled himself out when he collected his second yellow card of the tournament against the Scots.

WANTED

Teachers (native speakers) of English.

Please contact Specialised Centre for Languages and Training, Tel: 606529. We are specialised in teaching Arabic for foreigners.

Soviets favoured over Belgium

By Derek Parr
Reuter

LEON, Mexico — The Soviet Union, impressive group winners in the first round, have history on their side when they face Belgium in the World Cup second round here Sunday.

They beat the Belgians 4-1 in Mexico City in 1970 when the tournament was last held in this country and they won 1-0 in the second round in Spain four years ago.

Current form also points to a Soviet victory against an unsettled Belgian side who scraped through as one of the lucky third place first-round teams with three points out of six.

The Russians, by contrast, have played with great style and dash, dropping a point only to European champions France and topping Group C thanks to a handsome goal difference.

A lively attack has netted nine goals, including a six-goal salvo against Hungary in their opening match which thrust them into the role of serious title contenders.

The Soviet Union fielded a largely reserve side against outsiders Canada in their last first-round match but will revert to near full-strength against Belgium.

Right-back Nikolai Larionov, who pulled a thigh muscle in training this week, is highly doubtful for the rest of the tournament.

Experienced central defender Alexander Chivadze, hampered by a recent ankle injury, could get his first Mexico outing in a reshuffled back line.

"Chivadze is much better. He might play against Belgium or in the next round," assistant coach Sergei Mosyagin said at the team's base in Irapuato, 70 kilometres from Leon, Friday.

Chief coach Valery Lobanovsky, who underwent an electro-cardiogram test two days ago after feeling unwell, went to Queretaro Friday to see Denmark, possible quarter-final opponents, beat West Germany 2-0.

Lobanovsky included eight members of his Dynamo Kiev European Cup-Winners' Cup champions team in his opening line-up against Hungary and France and is likely to do the same against Belgium.

But 33-year-old left-winger Oleg Blokhin, capped 183 times by his country, must be doubtful after injuring his ankle when he scored in the 2-0 win over Canada.

Belgium arrived in Guanajuato Friday with their wives and girlfriends, who joined them on Thursday.

Right-back and former captain Eric Gerets, who missed Wednesday's 2-2 draw against Paraguay after twisting his right ankle on the eve of the match, is still doubtful.

Team chief Guy Thys, who was delaying a decision on Gerets, expects a tough match against the Soviet Union. "They are one of the World Cup favourites. I realise it will be very difficult, but we'll do our best," he said.

Soviet assistant coach Mosyagin said: "The Belgians will go all out. They will be trying to win and holding nothing in reserve."

Bulgaria not likely to upend hosts

By Phil Davison
Reuter

MEXICO CITY — Hosts Mexico, with Real Madrid scoring machine Hugo Sanchez back after suspension, should bear a dour Bulgarian side when they kick off the second round of the World Cup Finals at the Aztec Stadium Sunday.

The Mexicans dropped only one point in their first round group but failed to impress and have been heavily criticised by their fans and the local media.

However, they face a disappointing Bulgaria who, after picking up only two points from two draws, were preparing to pack their bags until other later group results let them through into the second phase.

At stake is a quarter-final place and a crack at 1974 World Champions West Germany or the tournament surprise, Morocco, in Monterrey on June 21.

The form book suggests that the West Germans, if they beat Morocco, will end the hosts' hopes of becoming the first Mexican team

to reach the semifinals. The Mexicans are hoping Sanchez, a household name in this country through his television promotion of soft drinks, cars and luxury hotels, will find the touch that has made him top scorer in the Spanish League for the past two seasons.

He scored one goal in Mexico's opening game against Belgium but collected a yellow card for booting the ball into the crowd in jubilation after another Mexican goal.

A second yellow card against Paraguay for time-wasting meant he had to sit out the final game against Iraq and watch his teammates struggle to a 1-0 victory.

Mexico's Yugoslav manager Bora Milutinovic has already won a reprieve from the vitriol that would have heaped on him had the hosts not reached the second phase.

But Senor Bora, as the players call him, is already under pressure, through the media, to produce more goals and more attractive football.

He is bound to face further criticism if he does not include popular 20-year-old striker "Abuelo" (Grandpa) Cruz in his starting line-up.

Cruz is the darling of the fans because he runs straight at defences, but Milutinovic brought him on only towards the end of all three first-round games.

Bulgaria go into the second phase still seeking their first victory in five World Cup finals appearances.

To reach that goal they will have to show more flair than their draws against Italy and South Korea and their 2-0 defeat by Argentina in Group A.

The East Europeans are likely to include midfielder Georgi Yordanov, who played only in the last of the three group games and was their most impressive player.

But they will have to give more support up front to skilful striker Plamen Gertov if they hope to go any further in the competition. His solo runs were among the few memories of Bulgaria's group games.

Brazil's outspoken free spirit: Socrates

By Sergio Mitro
Reuter

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — Last February doctor Socrates gave up smoking and drinking. He said it was part of a personal crusade but it was also welcome news to millions of his countrymen.

It was not that Brazilians objected to Socrates being a chain smoker and moderate drinker. What it did signal, though, was that the former captain of the national soccer team was taking the 1986 World Cup finals seriously.

Socrates, while adored by Brazilian fans, also has critics who have questioned his commitment to the game, and more recently, have called him a has-been. But he says: "I have pride and the spirit of a warrior whenever I'm faced with a challenge."

The oldest son of a large Brazilian middle-class family, Socrates made his mark on the game comparatively late in life. He was 25 when in 1979 he agreed to a transfer from unheralded Botafogo of Ribeirao Preto, in the interior of Sao Paulo state, to the mighty Corinthians, the state's most popular club.

"I had received offers to change clubs before, but I was not interested then because first I wanted to graduate as a doctor," Socrates said.

Playing for Corinthians, Socrates quickly rose to prominence. It was still 1979 when he made his first appearance in the national side, teaming up with Zico and scoring twice in a 5-0 win over

Ajax Amsterdam. He now has 24 goals and 55 caps.

Guided by his commanding talent, Corinthians won two Sao Paulo state league titles and came close to winning the Brazilian championship twice.

In 1984, having orchestrated the Brazilian midfield in the 1982 World Cup, Socrates moved to Europe, joining Italian First Division club Fiorentina and taking with him his wife, their five children and many hopes.

"I will do my three-year contract with Fiorentina and then quit soccer to resume my medical career and work with the poor," Socrates said before leaving for Italy.

But things did not work out and Socrates returned to Brazil after the first year of his contract.

He refuses to accept that he failed in his Italian adventure. "I agree that things did not work as originally planned. I felt homesick and just couldn't bear having to stay away from my roots too long, but I did not fail."

Some Italians accused Socrates of being a "negative leader" and lacking "team spirit."

"It's not true. I got along very well with my teammates including Passarella (Fiorentina's Argentine defender) who people said was my enemy. My problem in Italy was that while my body was there, my spirit was in Brazil," Socrates said.

He is a man who will always speak his mind. In Mexico the Brazilian players were told to restrict their comments to football

after Socrates was reported to have criticised the World Cup organisers for favouring Mexico and Brazil.

Socrates denied making the remarks but, asked if he agreed with the clamp down on public utterances by the players, he said: "I'm not a footballer. I'm a human being."

"Those who know me well can testify that I never back up in my positions. But I must say that the reporter who wrote the story simply quoted me out of his own mind. He wrote what he thought was best for the occasion."

"I don't know exactly where he wanted to get but it was certainly a way to cause trouble within our camp. All I can say is that those who are trying to create a dispute between myself and the officials are wasting their time."

Socrates plans to retire in a year's time after his contract with Flamengo — the Rio De Janeiro club he joined from Fiorentina — expires. "After that, I will resume my career as a pediatrician and want to work serving the poor. That's one way of doing politics, practicing social medicine."

His critics call him a communist and a heavy drinker who is not a good example to the young. But he says that does not bother him. "I do like drinking beer and I prefer to do it in public. There are many people who are considered good examples to youngsters, yet they have double personalities. They act one way in public and completely the opposite off stage."

By Derek Parr
Reuter

LEON, Mexico — The pressures of competing in the World Cup finals can inhibit even a player as outstanding as Michel Platini.

France are safely through to the second round, but Platini, Europe's Footballer of the Year for the past three seasons, has yet to produce the superlative performances his admirers have come to expect from him.

Platini is improving from match to match but set against his talent it is not enough. "Team chief Henri Michel said after Monday's 3-0 victory over Hungary.

"He must bring us more and I hope the breakthrough will come in the next match."

That match will be against defending champions Italy in the second round in Mexico City's Olympic Stadium on June 17 — a piquant prospect for Platini, who has played for Juventus Turin in the land of his ancestors for the past four years.

"It would be a pleasure to meet friends. It would be a festival of football between the champions of Europe and the champions of the world," he said in anticipation before Italy insured the duel by beating South Korea 3-2 Tuesday.

Platini spent the day in the company of Patrick Battiston, Jean Tigana and Daniel Xuereb — the only French players whose wives or girlfriends were unable to



join the squad while they take a brief break from football.

Strolling through the hotel grounds here Tuesday, he declined to comment on his performances so far in Mexico. "I'm on holiday," he said.

But a month ago, at the French preparation base of Font-Romeu in the Pyrenees, he touched on the problem of other people's expectations.

"People expect a lot of me. I'm no longer judged on what I do but on what I ought to do, what I must do. I must score goals, be fantastic. That's what I find a bit difficult," he said.

Platini, who could be playing in the quarter-finals on his 31st birthday on June 21, has provided fans with many memorable moments in his 66 internationals, studied by a record 39 goals.

If such moments were rare in Leon, he still came close with three free-kicks in the 1-1 draw

with the Soviet Union, one of which hammered against the angle of post and crossbar, and he supplied the pass for Dominique Rocheteau to score against Hungary.

"Michel provided lots of passes. It's his winners' mentality," said team-mate Tigana, who reckoned Platini had been more involved than any other player in the Hungary game.

Neither Michel nor Platini himself appear unduly perturbed by the side's relatively low-key start, and Platini has proved his ability to rise to the big occasion time and again.

He led France to a European Championship triumph in 1984, scoring nine goals in five games, including two hat-tricks, and insured French participation in three successive World Cup final series by scoring in crucial qualifying matches.

"We demand much of ourselves. When you have potential you become more and more demanding," Michel explained.

"Lots of passes have gone astray and we must try to improve still more. Technically, we are not yet at our peak."

Michel said that by beating Hungary 6-0, the Soviet Union had virtually killed French hopes of winning the group. But he made the point that five points out of six represented a much better start than the finals in 1978 (two out of six) and 1982 (three out of six).

"We will reach our full range in the second round. We are on an ascending curve," he added.

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Friedman gloats over OPEC's misfortunes

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Economist Milton Friedman Friday predicted that oil prices will eventually drop to \$8 or \$9 a barrel and remain there for some time.

Mr. Friedman, noting that he had predicted a collapse of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 1974, said the group was finished as a threat to the world market.

"I believe that OPEC has no future," he said, replying to questions after a speech to the Commonwealth Club of California.

"You have had cases in history of successful cartels, but I don't know of any cases of successful cartels that after they collapsed have been able to reform," he added.

Mr. Friedman, a Nobel Prize winner in economics, said he foresees further declines in oil prices.

"I believe the long-term equilibrium price of oil — the price we will tend to approximate over a long period — is something like \$8 or \$9 a barrel in current prices," he said. He predicted that prices are likely to drop even lower than that in the short term.

Oil is now selling for around \$14 a barrel after dropping from its \$30 level in November. It has rebounded after falling briefly below \$10 a barrel earlier this year.

U.K. records best rate of inflation in 18 years

LONDON (R) — Britain's inflation rate fell to 2.8 per cent in May, the lowest rate for more than 18 years, thanks to a drop in the price of petrol, according to government figures released Friday.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her Conservative government have made curbing inflation the main plank of their economic policy but critics say this is only at the expense of rising unemployment.

"We now have a marvellous opportunity to keep our economic recovery and we mustn't blow it by indulging in excessive pay increases or industrial disputes," Employment Minister Kenneth Clarke told reporters.

The government has cut the inflation rate from a peak of more than 20 per cent.

The May figure, the fifth monthly fall in succession, was the lowest since January 1968. Officials said the falling cost of oil had cut prices at the petrol pumps, compensating for slight rises in the cost of tobacco, cars, lamb and some vegetables.

The April year-on-year figure was three per cent.

Argentina's austerity scheme seen failing to build confidence

BUENOS AIRES (R) — An austerity plan introduced a year ago has successfully curbed chronic inflation in Argentina but has yet to restore confidence in the country's battered economy, banking sources said.

A 24-hour general strike against the plan — called the Austral plan after Argentina's new currency — Friday disrupted economic activity across the nation.

Businessmen for the most part agree that the fall in the rate of inflation over the last year has been spectacular. The annual rate at the end of June is expected to be 50 per cent against 1,100 per cent at the same time last year.

But the drop in the inflation rate has not translated into any significant increase in machinery and equipment purchases by the industrial sector, the sources said.

Economy Secretary Adolfo Camarot said the business sector has shown "a generalised lack of confidence." He said the extreme caution shown by industry had left the government in an "unfavourable position."

President Raul Alfonsín, on announcing the austerity programme, said the stability resulting from the defeat of inflation would automatically spark increased capital spending.

Chronic inflation averaged a rate of 200 per cent annually over the last decade, leading to economic stagnation, a fall in the standard of living for Argentina's 30 million people and political instability.

The Austral plan at first enjoyed widespread popular support,

aiding it in braking inflation and carrying Mr. Alfonsín's radical party to victory in October congressional elections.

Controls were clamped on wages and prices, labour contracts were deindexed to remove the built-in inflation factor and the inflation-tattered Argentine peso was scrapped in favour of the Austral, which was tied to the dollar.

But the General Labour Confederation (CGT), the nationwide grouping of trade unions closely aligned with the opposition Peronist Party, immediately began to criticise the plan, staging the first of four general strikes.

The government said the plan was dictated by creditors holding Argentina's \$50 billion foreign debt. It said the nation was forced to accept falling wages and rising interest rates to meet its debt payment commitments.

Since late last year Mr. Alfonsín's government has been trying to win the participation of the CGT in the gradual liberation of

wages and prices.

But CGT Secretary General Saul Ubaldini, frequently mentioned as a possible Peronist candidate, has twice walked out of wage-price talks, saying the government was merely trying to win the CGT's seal of approval.

Economic officials said recently labour's failure to take part in the talks had not created insurmountable problems. The government instead hammered out agreements with industry limiting the ability of employers to pass on wage increases to prices.

But Mr. Alfonsín, at a recent news conference, said the repeated strikes were conspiring against the economy. "We need investments to sustain this increase in economic activity that the nation has achieved," he said. "But what impression can this (the strike) be causing?"

Economic officials said Argentina should enjoy a four per cent economic growth rate in 1986 after suffering a sharp decline.

Iraq and Soviet Union sign four-year commerce accord

BAGHDAD (OPECNA) — Trade between Iraq and the Soviet Union will be expanded and diversified over the next four years under an agreement signed in Moscow Friday.

The agreement, covering the period 1986-90, was signed by visiting Iraqi Trade Minister Hassan Ali and Soviet Foreign Trade Minister Boris Istov.

Earlier, the Iraqi minister had talks with the Chairman of the Soviet state committee for external economic relations, Mr. Konstantine Katschev.

Mr. Ali arrived in Moscow Tuesday at the head of a high-level economic delegation which includes oil undersecretary, Mr. Issam Abdul Rahim.

Political uncertainties cloud future of S. African minerals

LONDON (R) — The state of emergency declared in South Africa Friday has deepened uncertainty over the future of the vast mineral wealth which helped put South Africa among the richest countries in the continent, dealers say.

With the rand "bouncing around" and the prospect of extensive unrest marking the June 16 anniversary of the 1976 riots in Soweto in which 500 died, the outlook looks "very dodgy," as one analyst put it Saturday.

In the long term, some stockbrokers see mining company nationalisations under a black majority government as a strong possibility.

Meanwhile, analysts agree that precious metals and other minerals would appreciate "if the world thought supplies were going to be disrupted," as one put it. Friday, platinum, vital for the car industry, surged to its highest price for three years, reaching \$450.50, though one analyst saw it as likely to retreat.

Gold has been less volatile, but has gained strongly to \$347.40 from \$341.65 the week before. Large world stocks of the metal have made it more resistant to developments than platinum.

South African government officials are reluctant to dwell on the leverage the country holds through its mineral wealth for fear that such talk will increase overseas calls for alternative sources.

But statistics published by the department of energy and mineral affairs speak volumes.

In 1984, the last year for which figures are available, South Africa

which plays a pivotal role in the manufacture of all steel products.

Uranium, among the leading minerals in energy production, also features prominently in South Africa. Together with Namibia (South West Africa), which it rules in defiance of a U.N. mandate, Pretoria produced 24 per cent of total world output in 1984.

South Africa and Namibia also claim to hold 25 per cent of world diamond reserves.

The importance of South Africa to the West's industry was highlighted last October when, under unprecedented threat of economic sanctions, President P.W. Botha said a total ban on chrome exports could threaten one million jobs in America and close down the European car industry.

Trade sources in Tokyo said they had already noted that major bullion houses in London and Switzerland were diversifying their sources of supply because of tensions in South Africa.

Japan would be particularly hard hit by any cutback in mineral supplies from South Africa because of its dearth of domestic supply, economists said.

"We would be facing difficulties, especially in platinum, if South African supplies were cut off," said an official at Mitsubishi Precious Metals, adding: "We are constantly looking for new sources for refinery materials."

Mitsubishi has invested in mines throughout the Pacific region, including Australia and Papua New Guinea, and is not only taking up the material it is entitled to as part-owner but also is buying from its partners in those mines.

Zhao reaffirms need for new economic order

PEKING (R) — A new and fair international economic order is needed to settle the growing debt problem faced by developing countries, China's Premier Zhao Ziyang said Friday.

Speaking at a welcoming banquet for visiting Peruvian Prime Minister Luis Alva Castro, who arrived in Peking Thursday, Mr. Zhao said the Chinese people deeply sympathised with the plight of debtor nations in Latin America.

"The essential way to settle the debts of the developing countries lies in reforming the irrational international financial and trade systems and in establishing a new and equitable international economic order," he said.

But the Chinese premier made no direct comment on Peru's position that it is willing to spend no more than 10 per cent of the value of its exports each year on debt repayment.

China has a small but growing foreign debt and Chinese leaders have indicated a determination not to follow the same path to indebtedness taken by many other Third World countries.

The U.S. producer price index rose due to energy, food costs' jump

WASHINGTON (R) — Wholesale prices in the United States began rising in May, the government said Friday, foreshadowing higher prices for consumers because of increased energy and food costs.

The Labour Department said the U.S. producer price index increased by a seasonally adjusted 0.6 per cent in May, its first rise in five months.

The index was down 0.6 per cent in April. It has fallen at an annual rate of 7.6 per cent in the first five months of 1986.

But the department said energy prices climbed 2.7 per cent last month, ending a steep decline in each of the four preceding months. By contrast, energy prices were down 8.4 per cent in April.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker cautioned recently that the anti-inflationary impact of lower energy prices might end soon.

At the same time, a rise in food prices accelerated in May. Consumer food prices were up 1.1 per cent, led by items like beef, veal and fresh fruits, after modest increases in the two previous months.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

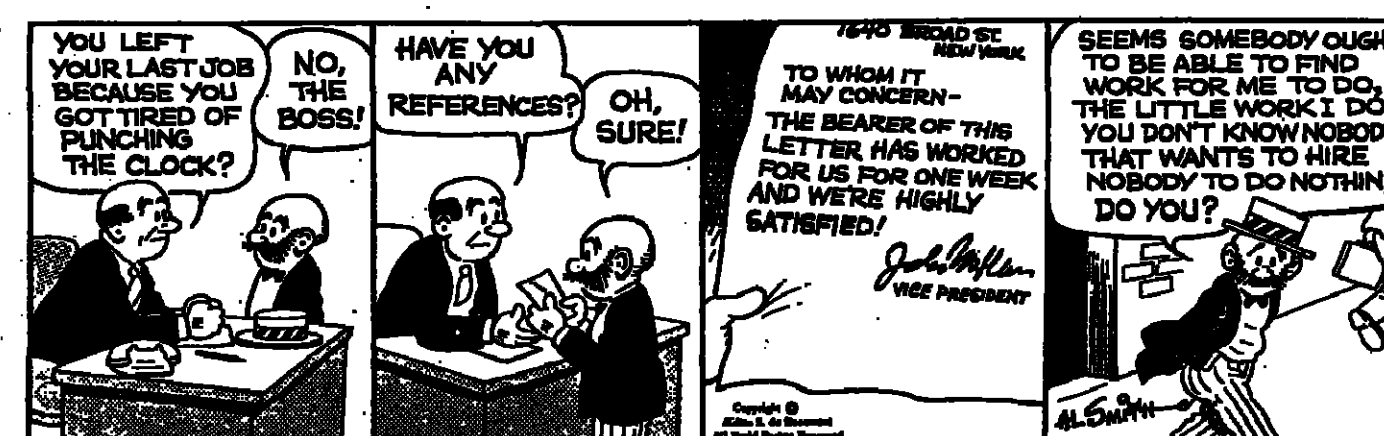
AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market on Wednesday, June 11, 1986 (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	No. of shares traded	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value for share
Jordan Securities Corporation	640	640	1.000	1.000	1.000
Jordan National Bank	2844	7099	2.490	2.510	1.000
Jordan Bank	537	10835	19.600	20.200	5.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	22309	17893	1.320	1.320	1.000
Arab Bank	320	47598	147.000	148.000	10.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	81	54	0.670	0.670	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	900	2338	2.600	2.550	1.000
RECO Insurance	471	204	0.920	0.940	1.000
Jordan Electricity	730	1102	1.500	1.510	1.000
Dar Al Sha'ab Press, Publishing and Distribution	150	86	0.580	0.570	1.000
National Shipping Lines	1569	1161	0.740	0.740	1.000
Arab Aluminium	2500	2125	0.860	0.850	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	1209	3966	3.280	3.280	1.000
Dar Al Dawa For Development and Investment	200	296	1.470	1.470	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	500	320	0.640	0.630	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	550	2118	3.850	3.850	1.000
Paper and Cardboard Manufacturing	88	233	2.610	2.650	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	566	1200	2.100	2.120	1.000
Jordan Tanning	97	172	1.800	1.770	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	550	476	0.850	0.870	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	100	683	6.800	6.830	5.000
Grand total	36911	100599			

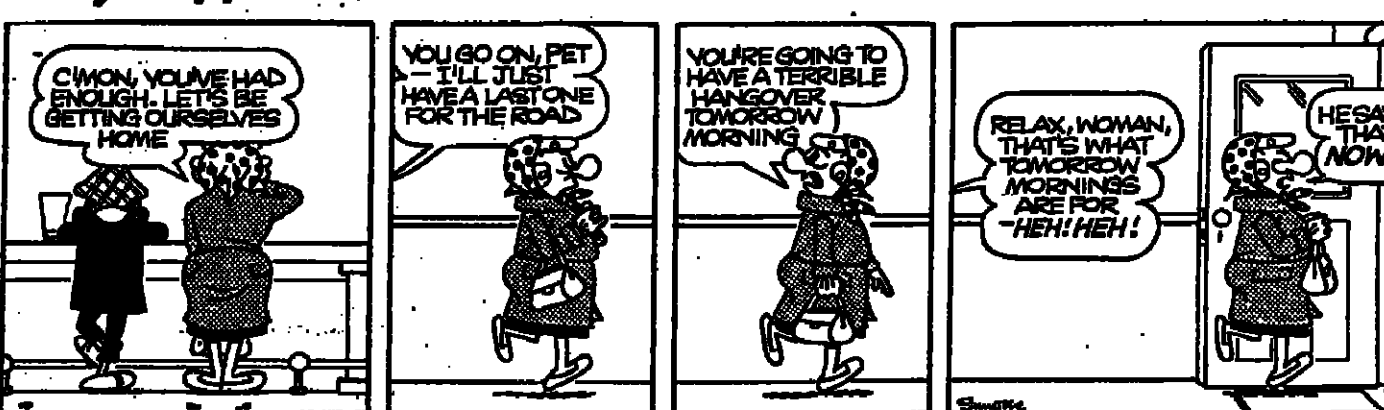
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



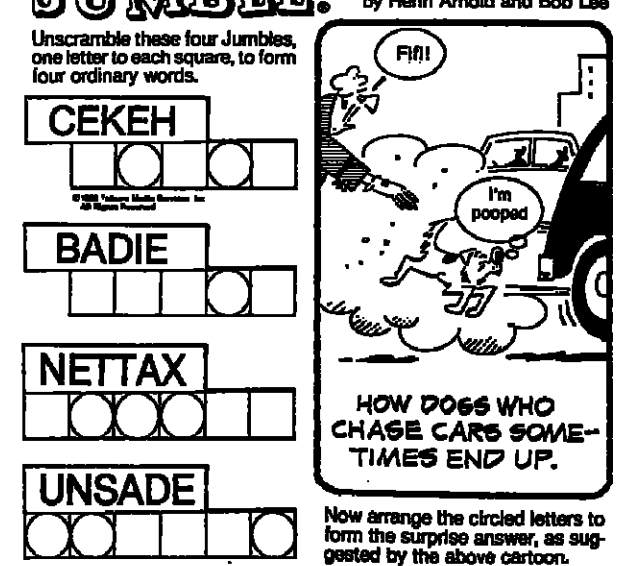
Andy Capp



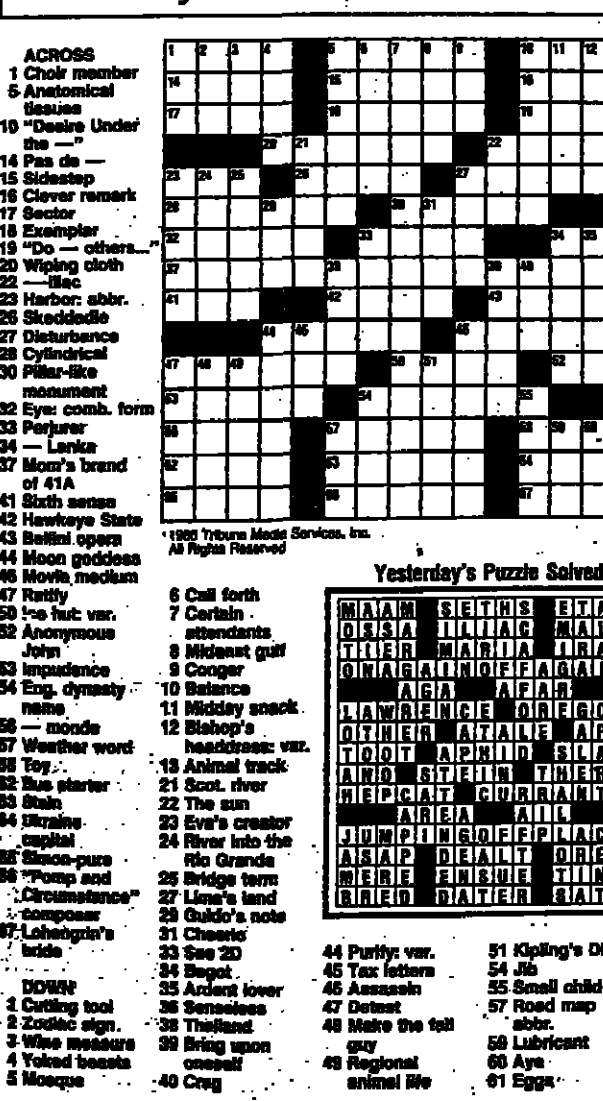
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Moscow offers to make key concessions on nuclear arms

BONN (R) — The Soviet Union has offered to make major cuts in strategic arms and accept key U.S. terms for an agreement in return for prolongation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty, according to Soviet sources.

They said a proposal tabled by Moscow at Geneva arms talks on Wednesday called for the United States and Soviet Union to accept a new strategic nuclear warhead limit of 6,000 on each side — nearly 40 per cent below present levels.

Details of the new Soviet offer were made known after the chief Soviet arms negotiator in Geneva, Viktor Karpov, briefed reporters in Bonn Friday night on a Soviet offer to eradicate U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles from Europe.

Giving the first clarification of this proposal, put forward on May 15, Mr. Karpov said Moscow was ready to ignore British and French nuclear forces in drawing up an agreement as long as Paris and London agreed not to expand their arsenals.

The sources said the new strategic arms offer would allow the United States to keep 1,650 delivery systems and cut back Moscow's tally to 1,250.

It included two key concessions to U.S. demands on the kind of weapons which should be included in any agreement, they added.

Washington had rejected earlier Soviet demands that a strategic arms accord include U.S. medium-range systems able to reach Soviet territory and require the dismantling of all cruise missiles, the sources said.

Under the new proposal, the American side would be allowed to retain some of its medium-range weaponry and also some long-range cruises based on both sea and land, they added.

U.S. agency gives \$2m to fight AIDS worldwide

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Agency for International Development (AID) will provide \$2 million in fiscal year 1986 to help combat the global spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), a deadly virus that breaks down the body's resistance to disease.

AID Administrator M. Peter McPherson said Friday that the U.S. contribution will go to the World Health Organisation (WHO) to help monitor and prevent AIDS in several developing countries.

Mr. McPherson made the announcement at a conference sponsored by the National Council for International Health, bringing together professionals to consider ways to improve health of populations in developing countries.

"We are all aware of the tragedy of AIDS and its rapid spread throughout the world," Mr. McPherson said. "The response to AIDS will require developing countries to divert precious resources that already are stretched to the limit."

Mr. McPherson said \$1 million of the U.S. contribution will help the World Health Organisation establish a multidonor assistance package that was approved by the World Health Assembly last month in Geneva. He said the U.S. donation represents about 25 per cent of the package, which will establish a global surveillance system, provide medical consultants to member countries, and ensure the safety of the world's supply of blood for transfusions.

The other \$1 million from AID

The entire deal was hinged on a pledge by both powers to keep within the limits of the 1972 ABM treaty for the next 15 or 20 years, the sources said.

The ABM accord, which sets strict limits on anti-missile systems, expires in 1987.

Moscow has been eager to ensure its survival as a block to deployment of a space-based missile defence envisaged by President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), known as the "Star Wars" project.

The White House refused to comment on the details of the new Soviet offer, citing a confidentiality rule agreed by both powers at the start of the Geneva talks.

Mr. Karpov, in West Germany to attend a weekend meeting of Foreign Ministers Hans-Dietrich Genscher to brief him on the Soviet view of the course of the Geneva arms talks.

Western diplomatic arms experts in Bonn said the details made known by the Soviets about their latest offers showed they had made significant moves towards U.S. demands in some key areas of the Geneva arms talks.

On medium-range weapons, Mr. Karpov said Moscow's latest proposals called for an early agreement scrapping all U.S. and Soviet missiles in Europe.

"We want to solve this problem now and not complicate it by bringing in the British and French systems," he said. "We are simply saying that Britain and France should not increase their arsenals

any more."

Moscow had previously said it would want to keep some SS-20 missiles to counterbalance British and French nuclear forces.

The Western experts said it had been steadily moving away from this demand and the May 15 proposal finally excluded them altogether from calculations on a medium-range accord. Mr. Karpov's comments marked the first time this had been made public.

"We are ready to scrap 243 (SS-20) rockets, that's 729 warheads, and this means we will scrap all our counterbalances to the U.S., English and French systems," Mr. Karpov said.

But he reiterated Moscow's refusal to bow to U.S. demands that it also agree to dismantle its SS-20s deployed in Asia, saying only that the Kremlin would be willing to freeze its arsenals there at their present levels.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Friday the SALT II treaty is obsolete and welcomed new Soviet proposals to reduce nuclear weapons.

Mr. Shultz refused to divulge the details of the proposals but he said it was "a good sign" that the Soviets were making proposals in the long-stalled talks.

At the Soviet embassy in Washington, a top Soviet diplomat said Friday that American policymakers were having "second-thoughts" about abandoning the 1979 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty.

Oleg M. Sokolov, the deputy Soviet ambassador to the United States, said the survival of that pact could enhance prospects for a summit meeting this year between Mr. Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

But Mr. Sokolov warned at a news conference that if Mr. Reagan implements his decision to

disregard the treaty's limitation on strategic bombers carrying cruise missiles, "the Soviet Union will not be able to remain a passive onlooker."

He said the Soviets would take "corresponding measures" to maintain what Mr. Sokolov described as nuclear parity between the superpowers. "So our response would be proportionate," he said in response to questions.

Mr. Shultz, on a telecast sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency, challenged the notion that the SALT II treaty was dead.

"The president has sought to... substitute one form of restraint for another," he said. He described the unratified treaty, which imposed ceilings on various categories of nuclear weapons, as "obsolete."

Questioned about the new Soviet proposals, Mr. Shultz said: "They have a propagandistic value of course, but they have substance in them.... That's a good sign."

Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes said: "We have some very firm proposals on the table in all the arms control talks. The Soviets have now come forward with some proposals, and we will make an effort as we resume each of these sessions to be able to talk with them. I think that's the 'better deal' he's (Mr. Reagan's) talking about — to hopefully have fruitful, profitable, serious discussions in the arms control area based on our proposals and now based on new Soviet proposals."

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Sri Lanka opposition accused of plotting racial riots

COLOMBO (R) — President Junius Jayewardene has accused the opposition party of former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike of plotting racial riots to oust his government.

"We have information that they are planning street demonstrations to arouse the people and create a Sinhalese backlash against the minority Tamils. They want to topple the government," he told a rally Friday night.

The Tamil fight for sovereignty has cost more than 3,000 lives since July, 1983, and over 50 deaths have been reported in the past few days.

Residents in the eastern district of Batticaloa said local volunteer security forces had killed 23 people, 18 of them Tamils.

They told Reuters by telephone that hundreds of Tamils had fled the area following the fatal attack on Thursday, but a military spokesman in Colombo described the accusations as "utter rubbish."

Twenty-six Tamil guerrillas were killed by gunfire from a helicopter Friday as security forces attacked separatist strongholds in north west Sri Lanka, military sources said.

The sources said the helicopter strafed two vehicles in Mannar district after rebels inside fired at it.

They added that three guerrillas and a soldier were killed in a gun battle on Thursday during a sweep through the area 300 kilometres north of Colombo.

Speaking of his charges against Mrs. Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), Mr. Jayewardene said: "Any kind of direct action will be mercilessly suppressed."

He urged government supporters to stop protesters taking to the streets.

The SLFP said in a statement last week the government was incapable of resolving the crisis and demanded its resignation.

Mr. Jayewardene has called a conference of main political parties on June 25 to discuss a plan to resolve the conflict between the majority Sinhalese community and the Tamils.

Several opposition parties, including the SLFP, have said they will consider Mr. Jayewardene's invitation next week.

11 die in Pakistan boat accident

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Eleven people were killed and seven injured when an overcrowded boat capsized Friday night on the Kabul River near the North West Frontier province capital Peshawar, police said Saturday. Four children were among the dead, they said.

The transshipment of drugs aimed for the United States. And, as I say, this we have pictured.

And now, the latest one is, the big investigation is, has there been a humanitarian aid that was sent down there or that was passed by the Congress, reluctantly, to do this. Well, I don't see why their investigation has not revealed as yet that — they were so concerned that the agencies of the executive branch might not be trustworthy in the handling of this money, that in the passing of the \$27 million, they laid down the strict rules as to exactly how that money must be delivered and spent. And we followed those rules. I think they ought to give us back control over that because they didn't do too well.

Q: Can you tell me why you're putting a larger effort into aid for the Contras in Nicaragua than the freedom fighters in Afghanistan who have been under Soviet occupation for over six years now, and also what your feelings are about the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and what the United States should do?

A: We are helping in Afghanistan. I'm not at liberty to tell you any details as to how we are and what we're doing. We're definitely on their side, the Mujahidin, and believe that this invasion by the Soviet Union is just further proof that they are following an expansionist policy that is based on Marxian doctrine, and the Marx-Lenin doctrine that Communism must become a one world — that it must be a one world Communist state, that is their goal. And — no, we're doing everything we can to help them get them out of there.

Q: The people of America have gotten conflicting opinions and statements about the SALT II treaty. A couple of questions. First, are we going to abandon for sure the unratified SALT II treaty —

Thatcher still opposed to S. African sanctions

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is standing firm in her opposition to full-scale economic sanctions against South Africa despite mounting demands for concerted international action to end apartheid.

Referring to the conclusion of a group appointed by the 49-nation Commonwealth that putting economic pressure on South Africa is the only way to avert a bloodbath, Mrs. Thatcher said she was prepared to stand alone on the sanctions issue.

The prime minister, who has consistently argued that sanctions would hurt the blacks they are meant to aid, told a television interviewer Friday night.

"I do not see the argument that full economic sanctions would stop violence. There is an argument that they would lead to greater turmoil and more killing between black peoples."

Britain, the top foreign investor in South Africa, stood to lose 120,000 jobs if full sanctions were implemented, she said.

Mrs. Thatcher deplored the apartheid system of racial segregation but said using sanctions to express this disapproval was not

worthwhile because the measures were destined to be ineffective.

Asked if her unyielding stance could tear apart the organisation linking Britain with its former colonies and territories, she said: "But if I were the odd one out and I was right, that would not matter."

Opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock told reporters after Mrs. Thatcher's remarks: "It is obvious she is prepared to be wrong and vain, even if it means cracking the Commonwealth."

Mrs. Thatcher on Thursday met the co-chairmen of the Commonwealth group, former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser and former Nigerian Head of State Olusegun Obasanjo, to discuss the report they published earlier in the day.

Diplomats forecast she will face intense pressure to change her mind before a meeting of Commonwealth leaders in London in early August, due to consider implications of the report by the seven-member Eminent Persons Group (EPG).

Mrs. Thatcher said she was prepared to discuss other measures against apartheid, but did not elaborate.

Walters: Pretoria could make nuclear weapons

SINGAPORE (R) — South Africa might develop its own nuclear weapons if the United States imposes tough economic sanctions against it, U.S. envoy Vernon Walters said Saturday.

Gen. Walters, the permanent U.S. representative to the United Nations, said South Africa already had the technology to make nuclear weapons.

"If we pack up our bags and say 'hell with you', South Africa may try to develop nuclear weapons," Gen. Walters told reporters.

"There's a chance South Africa could say 'well blow up anyone who bothers us', although it is unlikely they would."

Gen. Walters was reacting to international calls for sanctions following the clamping of emergency rule on South Africa on

Thursday by President P.W. Botha in a bid to quell black revolt.

The U.N. Security Council Friday unanimously condemned Mr. Botha's decision.

But President Reagan reaffirmed his opposition to severe economic sanctions as a means of forcing Pretoria to end its apartheid policy of racial separation. He imposed selective sanctions last September.

Gen. Walters, in Singapore to meet government leaders ahead of a meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, said: "We believe sanctions will hurt the black community more than whites."

He added that constant U.S. urging had proved more effective than sanctions in producing change in South Africa.

Former Bangladesh president wants ban on campus politics

DHAKA (R) — A former president wants to ban university political activity to restore the academic climate of Bangladesh's violence-prone campuses.

"Politics in our universities should be in a moratorium for at least five years if our seats of learning are to retrieve their old glory," Justice Abu Sayeed Choudhury told a seminar of teachers and poets Friday. He said this would enable students to concentrate on studies.

At least 50 students have been killed and hundreds injured in clashes between rival groups in last 10 years. Each year, violence caused suspension of classes for several months and postponement of

examinations.

Dhaka University, with nearly 10,000 students, prides itself as the nerve-centre of major political movements.

In 1982, its students spearheaded campaigns against the military rule of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad. At least three vice-chancellors resigned, blaming Dhaka campus violence on the government and opposition.

"The quality of learning has touched rock bottom mainly because the students involve too much in politics, sacrificing their own study," Choudhury, president in 1972-73, said.

Reagan: U.S. would make SDI 'available worldwide'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States would be willing to make a strategic defence system "available worldwide" in exchange for elimination of nuclear ballistic missiles, President Reagan said on June 13.

Speaking to out-of-town media representatives, the president said he does not regard his research programme, the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), as a "bargaining chip to get anything in the line of arms reduction" from the Soviet Union.

Rather, he said, he regards the SDI as the practical route to elimination of nuclear ballistic missiles, the goal both he and Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev have espoused. SDI, he said, remains within the restrictions of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

Mr. Reagan said he relies on the success of the SDI to replace the doctrine of Mutual Assured Destruction, which holds that both the United States and the Soviet Union have such large nuclear arsenals that it would be folly for either side to strike first, since the return volley would destroy the attacker as well as the victim of such an exchange. The president hopes the SDI will produce weapons capable of destroying incoming missiles in the stratosphere.

"If we can... develop an idea that shows that these ballistic missiles can be rendered obsolete," he said, "that is the time" the elimination of nuclear weapons could be achieved.

The president declared that the U.S. programme of strategic force modernisation will go forward, whether or not it exceeds the limits established in the unratified SALT II agreement. Mr. Reagan declared on May 27 that the United States would no longer consider SALT standards when determining the composition of its strategic deterrent.

"We're not going to retreat from that modernisation," he said. "We're behind the Soviets — they've been doing it much longer, beginning with the SS-18." He said the U.S. MX missile "is our counter" to the multi-warhead SS-18.

To replace the SALT structure, Reagan wants to engage the Kremlin in negotiations for "a practical treaty... of reductions" in weapons, not merely an agreement on "how fast you could increase."

Following are excerpts from the president's remarks:

QUESTION: And on that subject, sir, there have been calls, as you're well aware, for investigations of alleged criminal activity on the part of the freedom fighters or the Contras. And I — as a senator, whether you think that's a good idea and whether you are satisfied with the conduct of those people whom you are seeking additional aid for in Nicaragua?

ANSWER: Let me say that in any conflict of this kind, we understand, of course, that there are going to be individual deeds, there are going to be acts of brutality, whether against civilians or whatever, by individuals. But we know and are satisfied that the policy of the leaders is one of abiding by humanitarian rules of warfare as far as the Contras are concerned.

This is not particularly true of the Sandinista forces and we've had individuals here in our country testify as to the brutal treatment that they have received. And we have not found that — well, much of this we have found is a part of a disinformation campaign tending to discredit them.

For example, the charges of rape running. Well, the factual evidence that we have — and it's photographic as the result of a kind of sting operation — is that among the high officials of the Sandinista government, utilising one of their military air bases, is

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Q: The people of America have gotten conflicting opinions and statements about the SALT II treaty. A couple of questions. First, are we going to abandon for sure the unratified SALT II treaty —

does this mean more missiles? A: No. We're engaged now in a modernisation programme; as necessary, as it would be with any kind of weapons that — better ideas come along and some things get outmoded and so forth. And we're not going to retreat from that modernisation. We're behind the Soviets — they've been doing it much longer, beginning with the SS-18. Our MX, which is not yet deployed, is our counter to the SS-18. We are right now, technically, within the limits of SALT. They are not, as they have not been for seven years — that they have been violating it. So, we're going to be guided by what is necessary for our national security and a deterrent to their ever feeling tempted to launch a first strike.

And what we're doing down the road in our modernisation programme, there is coming a moment in which, to continue with that modernisation, will take us beyond the terms of SALT. But SALT was a treaty that the Senate — some of the members of that Senate then are still members now and they're criticising me for talk of not abiding by SALT. Well, they were members of the Senate that wouldn't ratify SALT as a treaty. It has not been observed, as I say, for seven years by the Soviet. There's no way that we could possibly or should possibly go on unilaterally adhering to this treaty.

In the first place, I always opposed the treaty because it didn't do anything to reduce armaments. All it did was set a pace at how much you can — and how fast you could increase. What we're going to do in the intervening time, however, is since the Soviets that for the first time that I know of, have made proposal themselves about reducing the number of weapons, we're going to try to engage them in that kind of a practical treaty of negotiating reductions of weapons that will rep-

lace this unratified treaty. And a treaty which, incidentally, has already outlived the period of time for which it was established.

Q: There were quotes by a high level policymaker who chose to be unnamed a couple days ago in the Boston Globe, suggesting for the first time that parts, or perhaps all, of the Strategic Defence Initiative may be subject to compromise by your administration, given recent Soviet proposals on defence research under the ABM and given their recent proposals as to possible reductions in offensive weapons. Is any or all of SDI in any way negotiable?

A: Not in the sense of using that as a bargaining chip to get anything in the line of arms reduction or anything of the kind. I think that this is one of the best things that has come along in scores of years, here — is this idea of switching from a policy, the MAD policy — Mutual Assured Destruction — that we and the Soviets could be safe — the people of our two countries — if we each had so many destructive weapons that for either one of us to start a war — the one who started it could get destroyed also.

This doesn't make sense in a world where madmen can come along as one did half a century, almost ago — Adolf Hitler. The idea of a defensive weapon that could probably make us take a second look at intercontinental ballistic missiles — they are the most destabilising. That's the weapon that if you push a button, 30 minutes later a lot of people blow up. If we could have a defensive system that says anyone who decides to start a war with those things may have trouble because not very many of them may get through. This, we're going to continue. But we also know that the Soviet Union has preceded us. They have been working and researching on the defensive programme long before we started.

Column

Fairuz concert unites Lebanese in song

LONDON (R) — Fairuz, the Arab World's top singer, struck a chord with her audience when she sang about Lebanese unity at a concert where fans were reported to have paid as much as £1,000 (\$1,500) a ticket. Both Christian and Muslim Lebanese attended the concert at London's Royal Festival Hall, where many were moved to tears by her patriotic songs. Security checks delayed the start of the performance by half an hour, "I find that because people consider me as a symbol of unity for Lebanon it's a big responsibility," Fairuz said in an interview after the concert. Admirers flew in for the concert from Beirut and Kuwait, organisers said. Single tickets sold for £100 (\$150) at the box office, but amounts far larger than that changed hands outside the concert hall.

Los Angeles (R) — A stuntwoman paralysed in a car crash while standing in for actress Farrah Fawcett in the film *Chances* was awarded \$4.5 million in damages by a jury which ruled the director was 65 per cent responsible for the accident. "This is the first time a film director has been held responsible for what he has done," David Sabih, attorney for Heidi Von Beltz, said after the verdict. "Directors will have to be very careful from now on and this will make a safer Hollywood," Sabih told reporters. Laurence Corcoran, attorney for Director Hal Needham, said Von Beltz had already received insurance settlements totalling more than the award and he would ask the judge to declare it void. Von Beltz was paralysed from the shoulders down in the 1980 crash.

Los Angeles (R) — A film and video cowboy Monty Montana has lost his wife, but kept his horse. "I feel like I'm getting my right arm back again," Montana, 76, said as he strode out of a Los Angeles superior court after lawyers for Montana and his wife of 12 years, Eleanor, reached a divorce settlement in a judge's chambers. The main issue in the divorce case — custody of Larry, a black-and-white horse Montana uses in his rodeo act. A joint statement issued by lawyers for both sides said: "In order that the public can continue to enjoy the performances of the horse affectionately known as Larry, Elly (Eleanor) has regrettably agreed he will be awarded to Monty." A consolation for 67-year-old Eleanor Montana: She receives a wooden Indian statue kept on the couple's ranch. "I will go out with my head high, with dignity and like a lady," Eleanor Montana said. "I'm going to fade into the sunset."

Rich Russian takes gold teeth from dead mother

MOSCOW (R) — A rich Russian who devoted his life to material possessions took three gold teeth from his dead mother, causing the doctor who had operated on her to have a minor heart-attack, a newspaper has said. *Sovetskaya Rossiya* (Soviet Russia) said the 27-year-old man boasted that he owned Japanese muscle equipment, his own car and other trappings of the "good life." When he heard that his mother was dead, he rushed to the hospital and demanded her gold teeth, the newspaper said. "Excuse me, but I don't understand why they should be left to someone else," it quoted the man as telling the doctor.

Sicilian pays dearly for stolen kiss

MESSINA, Sicily (R) — Calogero Lo Ricco is paying dearly for the wartime kiss he stole from a Sicilian girl who later became his wife. Wearing the dashing blue uniform of an Italian *Ufficiali*, Lo Ricco wooed and won the girl's heart in 1941. But the lovers' first embrace was noticed by a moral-minded patrol and Lo Ricco was given a suspended three-month jail sentence for indecency in a public place. The Treasury Ministry in Rome says the conviction bar Lo Ricco, now 69, from a veterans' pension and wants him to repay the 13 million lire (\$8,500) he has already drawn.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

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